**Environmental Stewardship Committee**

**Meeting minutes 7-31-17**

Present at meeting:

Christina Erickson

Leif Anderson

Amanda Erdmann

Jill Davenport

Emily Schilling

Tom Ruffaner - Guest

Catching Up:

Jill reports that bookstore will stop using plastic bags and use only paper, will ask students first to use backpacks instead of a disposable bag. City wide ban on plastic bags is on hold right now.

Amanda reports that new bins will be installed, 1 per unit in residence halls: a triple system of recycling, compost, and waste. They will be installed in fall and pulled in May for washing and re-deploy the following fall.

Leif reports that community garden has been discussed through Hagfors committee – location of the garden as a permanent feature integrated into the landscaping around Hagfors – this will be deliberate green space on that corner. Garden design in question – community garden jungle vs. architects’ long-term view – how is public space shared with gardening (safety, aesthetics, use) – need to signal order, care, and watch of that space.

Tom Osland brought forward an idea to Paul – container gardening (assigned to individuals) with deliberate paths, a space to move through, a design that could be replicated in other parts of campus, along with perennials on the ground available to everyone; there is a visual plan for this but Allyson’s approval is needed before going forward.

Not budgeted yet – Paul has some building savings, advancement is taking it up, possible corporate sponsors, possibly Cargill money? Yet to be determined with a conversation with Allyson.

Leif reports that tree (sugar maple) for the turnaround at rotunda is being planted as part of ceremonial on Peace Prize Forum Friday.

Leif reports that University Council retreat coming up on August 30 & 31 and we will have an ESC representative call in for a 15-minute discussion on our progress.

Tom Ruffaner reports that the water faucets around campus are missing the aerators that conserve water, need to make sure that new faucets have them

Audit needed by students? Maybe need to ask Brian what’s going on with that?

Christina reports that gen ed has circulated a draft of sustainability outcome language and planning. This will help shape the general education curriculum, including the “big question” courses that may replace Augsem.

Emily reports on ENV100/ENV120 water initiative ideas for class projects

* Water testing – ENV120, one sample from each building preferably the farthest from the source in that building
* Media – printed, videos etc.
* Audits – water conservation measures or lack there of
* the geopolitical idea of water scarcity
* focus on the water, not the bottles. Take back the tap, Make sure to frame it around WATER, not plastic
* tabling to move the marker on individual understanding
* first, have a visit from ESC to explain the initiative

Christina

Need to email Rebekah John and Leif to have some info (one or two sentences) for Paul to circulate about the ESC Action Plan – he could circulate it in the “welcome back” and “fall update”. Need to introduce it as our new Green By 2019 plan… along with introducing our first initiative on water – care and use of local water, the first step in this is reducing our use of bottled water.

Amanda asks – what now? We got approval from UC, now what are we supposed to be doing to provide support and direction? What are the channels to communicate using existing infrastructure?

Leif suggests that early messaging from Paul should just address the larger plan, not the water bottle plan… but individuals need to see what the implications for “me” are right away.

The first step is for Christina to draft short messaging to include in upcoming fall announcement letters (welcome and/or fall update) from President Pribbenow

Leif asks about the status of the bike share – they haven’t heard back from EAC since their last meeting to talk about the location of the bikes – need to be in an existing covered space; Amanda is emailing Mike Grewe, Karl Hahn, and Allyson to ask; maybe Residence Life will take charge of bike check out with student workers running it. Need to wrap up old bike share program to get rid of the old bikes.

Big discussion about the bike share program and oversight of EAC initiatives. Could Nice Ride bikes be a better option? Let's push them a little on this. Amanda is going to follow up to see what the barrier is on using Nice Ride.

No need for a fall retreat.

Need to set next meeting date. Christina to do this.