

SMU Sustainability Committee Minutes

Noon-1 p.m., Oct. 24, 2012
Blanton Building Room 112

I. Call to order

II. Sign-In and introduction

III. Approval of Minutes from last meeting (motion from Raj Bhagat, seconded by Kim Cobb)

IV. AASHE report

Our SMU students and staff who attended the AASHE conference returned energized and ready to try out some of the ideas they learned about. For example:

- Gwen Carris was intrigued by a university program that prepares gray water for re-use by filtering it through plants.
- Jewel Lipps wants try the concept of a “zero-waste tailgate.”
- Zach King is interested in setting up sustainability competitions between fraternities and sororities, and encouraging Sustainability Chairs within the Greek community.
- Zach would also like to investigate the cost and possible subsidization of hydration stations by the Sustainability Committee
- Raj is interested in working with Aramark on a project to minimize food waste.
- Jingjing Yang and the others were impressed by a documentary, “Your Environmental Road Trip” (or YERT) that they think would be well-attended by the SMU community.

V. Subcommittee Reports

A. Operations

- Eric reported that he is investigating options for outdoor recycle bins compatible with SMU outdoor architecture. Keya noted that she talked to Ann Allen in landscaping two years ago, and has also discussed options for SMU with Landmark Studio Designs.
- Ann Allen recommended to Keya that she get support from the Student Senate before requesting approval for outdoor bins from Dr. Turner. And Kevin Dilliard suggested that whoever presents the idea needs to offer three options at different price points.
- Nick Saulnier has been working with the E-Reps on getting bigger bins in the residence halls, but Keith Gardner noted that all the residence halls have recycle bins except Hawk, Martin & Moore.

B. Marketing

Kim Cobb reported that the winner of the Green Minute Video Contest was to be announced that afternoon. The winner is Nicole Gawor, whose sister won in the first competition four years ago. The iPad being awarded was donated by Aramark.

C. Education and Awareness

Lisa Wall noted that the Mini Film Festival was scheduled for 4 p.m. Oct. 24, and that the winning video would be announced along with the showing of “Living With the Trinity.” The announcement of the contest winner was timed to coincide with Campus Sustainability Day.

D. Student Initiatives

- Jennifer Smith reported that she would be approaching the Student Senate for funding Barefoot on the Boulevard Oct. 29 and will approach the Sustainability Committee for funding based on what the Student Senate is able to provide.
- She is approaching sustainable vendors and Groundwork Dallas has committed to a booth, as well.
- The group agreed that whatever date is selected for Barefoot on the Boulevard should not compete with the opening of the Bush Library or E&H Week.

VI. Presentation by Peter Payton, Groundwork Dallas

- Groundwork Dallas intends to provide educational and career opportunities in the Great Trinity Forest for area youth – to turn it into an educational green space.
- The area is eight times the size of Central Park. Groundwork Dallas has carved out five miles of useable trails.
- The forest is within a 30-minute drive of more than 1 million people.
- Groundwork Dallas wants to challenge every high school, university and college to clean up the forest with a clear understanding that they are part of the watershed that feeds (and pollutes) it.
- Groundwork's largest event thus far has been an event with 360 people in which they filled nine 40-gallon dumpsters in four hours.
- "Nature is reclaiming itself – it just needs a hand."
- If the Sustainability Committee wants to volunteer, just pick a Saturday and come take a look. Can SMU do an SMU volunteer day? A residence halls day? A Greek Day?
- There are "scads of opportunities" for student internships, Payton said.

(No vote for specific plan with Groundwork Dallas)

VII. New Business

A. New member nomination and vote

1. Ryan Raedisch approved to replace Chris Mavros as representative from Planning, Development & Construction. Motion from Kim, seconded by Jomita. Committee voted to approve.

(Submitted by Kim Cobb)

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