

Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Committee—Minutes
April 14, 2011
115 Anheuser Busch Natural Resources Building

Members Present: Jason Hubbart, Chair Paul Coleman
Peter Ashbrook Teresa Long
Rachel Brekhus Troy Rule
Steve Burdic Jan Weaver
Leah Christian Martin Wills

Guests: Michael Burden Monica Everett
Ted Curtis Emmie Harcourt
Ben Datema Tyler Hutcherson
Amy Eultgen Julaine Kiehn
Rose Eppensteiner Janet Moreland

Jason Hubbart called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. No corrections were identified.

Campus Dining and Food Issues

Julaine Kiehn, Director of Campus Dining Services (CDS), presented information on a variety of issues that were the direct responsibility of or touched upon her department. Refillable mugs are honored at all CDS locations: these may result in a discount on the beverage or the purchase of the next larger size at no additional cost. The Residence Hall Association and CDS partnered this past year to provide all students living in residence halls with a reusable mug. Patrons can provide their own mug, which will be honored as a refillable mug.

Kiehn said that CDS has evaluated the option of removing trays from dining halls. A trayless week pilot showed that this practice resulted in approximately 25% reduced waste. At this point, CDS has not removed trays because the last survey showed that two-thirds of students were opposed. As a result CDS is working to encourage students to make wise food choices and take smaller serving portions to reduce food waste.

Kiehn reviewed other sustainability issues. All the napkins come from recycled paper. Reusable bags are offered at the Emporium to keep items hot or cold, as appropriate, and reduce the use of plastic bags. Waste vegetable oil is recycled for use as biodiesel in vehicles, but not campus vehicles at this time. Rollins has a pulper and the pulp produced is used by students in an urban garden. There are plans to work with Bradford Farm to use pulp for compost for vegetables.

CDS has worked to increase the use of locally grown foods. They have worked with a beef farm, an egg farm, Bradford Farm, and have invited some local farmers in to meet with students. They have been able to purchase rice, trout, cheese, brats, and pork from local sources on occasion. Locally grown foods were identified at the “Taste of Missouri” event that featured preparation of locally grown foods.

Miscellaneous Issues

Steve Burdic indicated he would have an MU Sustainability booth at the Columbia Earth Day celebration this Sunday. He asked for volunteers to help staff the booth. Jan Weaver noted that due to her retirement, someone needs to step up to be a liaison between MU and the Earth Day Coalition. There are monthly planning meetings beginning in August and someone needs to reserve Peace Park. Steve Burdic said that he would either do this or find someone to do it.

Weaver also announced that she would be meeting with Jim Spain, Mark Ryan, and Ted Tarkow next week to discuss the future of Environmental Studies.

Bicycle Issues

Ted Curtis, from the City's GetAbout Columbia program, distributed a handout showing capital projects under the program. The handout showed projects for the period June 2008 to those scheduled for completion in fall of 2013. In addition, he shared information on bike shelters, bike parking and bike lockers. The sense of the group was that there has been some campus interest in covered parking, but less interest in bike lockers.

Tyler Henderson distributed information cards prepared by the MU Sustainability Office about the Bike Resource Center. Ben Datema has submitted a proposal to the Student Fee Capital Improvement Fund to help fund some bike stations on campus. There have periodically been proposals for various types of bike rental programs, but none have gotten off the ground. Students have looked at bicycles accumulated by MU Police and other sources for surplus property, but these are usually not in very good shape.

Burdic presented a map of campus showing bike routes, bike paths, etc that were proposed a few years ago and designed to integrate with the City's plans.

Ashbrook reviewed some coordination issues between MU and the City. When the City first obtained its non-motorized transportation grant, then-mayor Hindman appointed an advisory committee. MU was represented by Ashbrook, Jim Joy and Mike Alden. Vice Chancellor Jackie Jones also set up an ad hoc MU advisory committee at that time, chaired by Ashbrook, with representatives from the Environmental Affairs Committee, Campus Safety Committee, Parking and Transportation Committee, MU Police, Campus Facilities, Student Recreation Services, MSA, Athletics, and Residential Life. Ashbrook said that MU is trying to be open to opportunities in working with the City to facilitate the use of bicycles; however, MU at this point has very limited resources for enhancing bike usage.

Next Meeting

Ashbrook announced that this would likely be the last meeting of the Committee this year and thanked members for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. PCA