

DU Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2012

Members, University Representatives and Guests Present: Andrew Bishop, Gary Brower, Christy Cerrone, Fred Cheever, Katie Bonomo, Cara DiEnno, Sara Dietz, Tay Dunklee, Brenda Goates, Michael Harris, Tiffany Hutchings, Dennis Jackson, Chad King, Linda Kosten, Chris MacMillan, Megan Marshall, Don Mayer, Tom McGee, Alex Mehn, Jess Morton, Shelley Popke, Zach Porter, Dale Rothman, Scott Schrage, Mariah Shell, Mike Sickinger, Brittany Wilhelm.

Next meeting: October 11, 2012

I. Call to Order and Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes (Fred Cheever)

Fred called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He asked that the meeting minutes from August 9 be approved. There were a motion by Gary Brower, seconded by Megan Marshall, and they were approved unanimously.

Fred acknowledged that Chris MacMillan, who has kept the Council meeting records and minutes since the beginning of the Council in 2007, is stepping out of that role. He asked that people consider volunteering.

II. Introductions (Fred Cheever)

There were self-introductions by those present.

III. Vice Chair Report (Christy Cerrone)

Christy announced the meeting schedule for the year. These should be posted on the Green website and on the DU calendar. The days of the week have been alternated to try and avoid conflicts with other meetings. The meetings are from 8:30 – 10 a.m.

- October 11 (Driscoll)
- November 1 (Driscoll)
- December 6 (Driscoll)
- January 17 (Law)
- February 14
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2

IV. Announcements by Human Resources Wellness Program (Katie Dunker)

Katie explained that she is coordinating the Employee Wellness Program. Thrive across America, an online physical fitness program, will kick off September 10. The program encourages everyone to get active at work and home. There will be prizes and team competitions. The Wellness Program also encourages alternative transportation.

Flu shots will be offered on October 9 and 18 on campus. Shots are free for Kaiser patients and \$10 for others.

Fred said he hoped Katie would help support bike-friendly initiatives. She said she attended the Transportation Committee and plans to be on several other committees.

V. Presidential Debate (Chase Squires)

Chase provided an update on planning for the Debate. He said that there will be many vendors during Debate Fest and everyone will be asked to bring water bottles to fill from a Denver Water truck. The planners are stressing sustainability in everything. There is work underway on getting valet bike parking.

There was a question about the Sustainability Council participating in Issues Alley at the Debate Fest. There was general agreement that the Sustainability Council and related groups should participate in some way. Chad King said he would pursue this angle. Brittany Wilhelm reminded people that they must register to attend the Debate Fest.

VI. Brainstorm Ideas for Sustainability Council Focus for Coming Year (Fred Cheever)

Fred asked for ideas about where the Sustainability Council should focus during the upcoming year. Suggestions were as follows:

- Continued progress on energy efficiency
- Involvement in the transportation planning portion of the DU Land Use Plan
- Waste recycling and improving the diversion rate
- Implementing the Green Office initiative

VII. Election of Staff at-Large Member (Fred Cheever)

Fred said that anyone who is interested in being considered for the staff at-large position vacated by Sharon Gabel should send him an email. The Council will conduct a vote at the October meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (Megan Marshall)
Megan said that the big push this year will be to implement a stronger and cleaner composting program. They will be conducting an education program and installing clearer labeling on bins. October 19 is being planned as a “zero waste” hockey game. The committee will also work on getting offices to use reusable dry erase markers and refillable pens.

The Committee meets twice a month on Thursday.

There was discussion about the need to educate incoming students about sustainability each year. Megan said they have been unable to get time on the orientation schedule, except as an optional topic. Others agreed that orientation is the ideal time to educate students and suggested some avenues, such as sending information to orientation leaders and providing a sustainability t-shirt to them. However, there was general agreement that the best approach is being part of orientation and training the leaders. The leaders are selected in March, attend a retreat in May and start orientation in late August.

- b. Social Sustainability Committee (Cara Harris)
Cara said the committee did not meet over the summer. She will send out a notice of the next meeting to the Green Listserv.
- c. Food and/or Mindful Consumption Committee (Megan Kelly leads)
Megan talked about the Pop Up Picnic scheduled for September 16. It will feature organic meats and vegetables and perhaps involve the DU Grilling Society. The location is the Permaculture Garden by Cherrington from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Attendees should bring their own utensils and food to share. One goal is to achieve zero waste. The picnic is sponsored by Grow Local Colorado and they will be filming a short video about healthy food.

Megan said that another event is Food Week starting October 24. Chad King, Katie Dunker, and she are meeting next Monday to discuss what to do. She asked interested people to email Chad or her. They will probably have a food justice panel and information about a fermenting workshop at the Botanic Gardens.

October 24 is AASHE Sustainability Day. There will be a composting education initiative in the residence halls.

Fred explained what AASHE is and invited everyone to visit the website and learn more about the organization.

- d. Facilities and Energy (Tom McGee)
Tom said that there will be a Smart Grid presentation on October 1 at 1 p.m. This project was undertaken by the Computer Science and Engineering departments. Tom said it would be a good idea to make the presentation to the Sustainability Council at the October meeting.

He said that the upgraded ice chillers at Ritchie, which are the largest electrical consumers on campus, are now operational and benefits should start accruing. The ice will need to be taken down for the Debate but Joy Burns ice rink will be operational.

Tom said there will be two energy analyses in Sturm and Nelson Hall. The exterior perimeter lights at Ben Cherrington will be tied into an automated system that is based on the astronomical clock. There was a suggestion to get some media exposure about the system.

Fred commented that DU has been successful in reducing its greenhouse gas footprint in the past few years while many others have seen an increase.

Tom said the Committee should be meeting in three or four weeks and meets monthly.

e. Transportation (Tay Dunklee)

Tay reported on the event focusing on alternative transportation that was on the orientation schedule as optional. Thirty students attended a tricycle and training event. Brittany Wilhelm suggested uploading pictures to the Sustainability Face Book page.

Tay said that we have been approved to have additional bike racks for the Debate by Ryan McCann of Bike Denver at no cost. The DU application for Bike Friendly Communities has been submitted and we are waiting for the results. The Committee is also considering options for the Nagel bike space now that the B-cycle station has been relocated. B-cycle may be expanding its membership through student fees or some other models, such as those used at CU and CSU. Campus Cycles has sent a representative to the Transportation Committee and has offered to provide bike mechanic training.

Katie Bonomo, new director of the Transportation Solutions, distributed debate bike map, which is subject to change. She discussed the switch from ECO pass stickers to Smart Cards. The cards will be active only when enrolled for credit or employed at DU.

f. Education and Research (Don Mayer)

Don said that the committee didn't meet over the summer but would meet on either October 15 or 18. He said that the committee's Renew DU inter-disciplinary proposal was declined for funding. The Daniels College

has a Sustainability Certificate at the master's level and is working on one for the undergraduate.

Dan Rothman said that the planners for the speaker's series need to regroup. They are hoping to get sponsorship from the Sustainability Center.

Linda Kosten commented that the sustainability minor at the undergraduate level is still in place and is run by the Geography Department.

g. Best Practices (Tiffany Hutchings)

Tiffany said the committee did not meet over the summer.

Linda Kosten mentioned that some units are adopting the Sustainability Competency for staff in the Performance Management system. It is required in Student Life.

h. Outreach (Brittany Wilhelm)

Brittany said that the committee didn't meet but was busy through email over the summer. The Committee met on the Green Office Initiative yesterday. The pilot reports are under review. Twenty offices completed a draft audit. Brittany said that they set the bar really high to qualify as a green office because no one met the criteria. The Committee will be considering a participation certification and a liaison program. The program will be officially launched after the Presidential Debate.

IX. Adjournment at 10:00 a.m.