

Library Environmental Committee Agenda, October 22, 2013

11am – 12pm, South Conference Room

Chair: Andrea Kepsel

Recorder: Aaron Tomak

LEC Members Present: Andrea Kepsel, Aaron Tomak, Stephanie Perentesis, Susan Kendall, Kris Ostrom, Eric Tans

Guests Present: Terry Link, Laura Carter, Tina Qin

1) Welcome our new member Eric Tans, Environmental Sciences Librarian

The LEC welcomed Eric Tans, made introductions, and gave an overview of the LEC's functions and goals.

2) Task Force on Library's Environmental Impact

- a. Charge: The TF shall consider and provide an action plan for improving the Library's impact on the environment. Members are Shawn Nicholson, Terry Link, and Jim Hensley.

- The task force consists of Terry Link, Shawn Nicholson, and Jim Hensley.
- Cliff initiated the task force.
- Only one meeting has taken place so far.
- Cliff's interest is to see if the library can improve on ALL levels of performance in terms of environmental impact.
- The task force is charged with deciding where to begin/what to focus on.
- The task force decided to work openly with staff and gain regular feedback.
- The first focus will be on energy, water use, and solid waste. Experts in re-commissioning buildings looked at the building. Reports and studies are available that cover energy usage; water resources and use; solid waste. Task force is looking into these reports to see what we do and what can be improved.
- The next meeting is scheduled for the week of the 28th. It will be a discussion of what the task force knows and what they need to know. This meeting will be a strategic planning meeting. Other staff and departments will be consulted. For example, systems would be consulted about computer energy usage.
- The task force will potentially be able to meet with other groups on campus.
- The goal is give Cliff a plan in 6 – 9 months to see what we can do to improve our environmental impact.

- b. Questions for Terry Link?

Q. Was Cliff looking for the LEC to partner with the task force?

A. Cliff wasn't clear about what level LEC operates at but wanted dedicated staff time. Hence the task force. The LEC is voluntary and dedicated time is not guaranteed. Additionally any staff will be welcome to participate as time allows.

Q. What information is in the HVAC report and what can be improved?

A. Changes are and have been made over time and continuous improvement is always a concern. Re-commissioning has the goal of fixing the existing problems. This level of investigation is beyond the scope of the task force but they will be working with experts in that type of area.

Q. A report was made earlier this year about overall environmental impact of the Main Library as a building. Can we (the LEC and staff) see this report?

A. It isn't clear yet what the report contains and if it is/will be open to all. Terry hopes to get a clear answer. The report is highly technical and involves a lot of esoteric data. The firm that produced the report focuses on technology cost benefit. Small changes can make a big impact.

Q. Water quality was brought up and the color it sometimes has. The question of environmental impact of people buying bottled water or using the Styrofoam cups from the Cyber Café was brought up.

A. This could be considered and discussed by the task force.

c. Suggestions for reports to include in the dataset

Shawn asked the LEC for suggestions of what can be covered. Energy use, transportation options, air quality, and water quality were all suggested.

d. How can the TF marry it's work with LEC's wider and longer-term objectives?

Shawn also wanted to know how the task force and the LEC can work together. This initial meeting is a good start to creating conversation between the groups. Changes do not have to be at the university level and the LEC can make suggestions based on our experience.

AASHE.org has open reports, programs, and policies any staff member can access.

3) Spring Environmental Series

- a. PR deadline is Monday, December 2
- b. Kriss spoke with chef from Tannin, new local foods restaurant in Central Park Place, and he was interested in speaking so should we include in our spring events?

Kriss spoke with several restaurant owners who are interested. But communication has been difficult so we're tabling the idea for now. Other topics include a discussion with Noah Link about his urban farm. We will each try to come up with some more ideas.

Susan will email Peter Carrington about Beal Garden tours and schedule some times.

4) Old Business

- a. Library bike
- b. Stewardship reports – will Jennifer Battle continue to send?

Library bike – Policies and procedures forms were developed by Mike. We are still looking over these before sending them for approval.

Stewardship report – Office of Sustainability has a new representative. Kriss will make contact with her.

5) Ecogram

This week is sustainability week. An ecogram was sent about this.

New business

We need to apply again for green certification starting 2014. We will add this to the next agenda.

Next meeting: November 26, 2013

Chair – Elida Marti, Recorder – Kriss Ostrom