

Library Environmental Committee Minutes - July 28, 2015

Present: Eric T. (Chair), Emilia M. (Recorder), Loretta C., Susan K., Tim K., Jonah M., Stephanie P., Heidi S., Aaron T.

Guest: Cliff Haka

1. Cliff visited the LEC, and reiterated his support for the committee and our work.

- i. Floated the idea of the LEC coming up with a list of 5 - 10 practical/concrete suggestions to make the library more sustainable to bring to library staff. These do not have to be major changes - just small things that individuals can do to have real environmental impact.
- ii. Jonah updated the group on the status of the compost trial. The trial has been going well. The bins in Sparty's have seen especially high use. There have not been any major problems reported about inappropriate use of compost bins. Additional awareness might help people feel comfortable putting more items into the bins, such as paper plates and napkins. There is a possibility that the library may be charged for compost pickup once the pilot stage is over, but the Office of Sustainability is not ready to charge yet. Compost might be a topic for a future staff meeting to further raise awareness about the bins and what materials are compostable.
- iii. The LEC requested a third bottle filling station outside the new staff space and conference rooms on 4 West, which would replace the existing water fountain between the bathrooms, pending facilities approval.
- iv. The LEC offered continued support for washing dishes at library events once the new dishwasher is installed, as we have done in the past.
- v. Sought clarity on letter from IPF encouraging the adoption of mini bins in offices. Cliff will pursue this issue and let the LEC know of any further developments. The LEC would not be in charge of implementing this program, as it could include changes in the custodial staff workflow.

2. Speaker Series Updates

- i. The Campus Trees walking tour will be Sept 17. Heidi will get a write up from Frank, as well as the starting point of the walking tour.
- ii. EPA SCOTUS: Both Pat and Loretta reached out to possible speakers, but were not able to find an available expert for this semester. Loretta raised the possibility of doing an annual series on landmark Michigan environmental law cases.
- iii. Recycling on campus: Eric contacted Dave Smith from MSU Recycling. He would be happy to do a presentation, which will be scheduled soon for an October or early November time. There was also interest in book recycling on campus.
- iv. There was interest expressed in organizing a tour of the composting facilities in the spring, possibly around the same time as the horticultural society plant sale to reach a greater audience. Possible time during the day on Saturday to reach community members.
- v. Archaeology on campus: Deborah M. offered to contact Lynne Goldstein, head of Campus Archaeology, if we decide to pursue this in the future.

3. LEC Budget

- i. Terence O'Neil is the new LSA treasurer. He wanted to make sure we were still ok keeping our funds in a sub account with LSA money.
- ii. We will not be adding additional funds to the account. The LEC will close out the account by purchasing materials to donate to the new kitchen. Eric will contact Mary Schueller about which supplies would be most useful.

4. Library Bike

- i. Liability and recreational use: bike will continue to be only available for work-related uses for liability reasons.
- ii. Helmet availability: Circulation is not able to lend helmets, since they would be responsible for sanitizing and ensuring helmet safely. Library bike borrowers will continue to bring their own helmets.

5. New Business

- i. Aaron is continuing to map recycling bin locations throughout the building, though cannot complete the project until building construction is finished. He may also map trash can locations. Some low use trash cans could be removed, and replaced during heavy traffic times such as finals
- ii. Landfill stickers for some trash cans still in the works
- iii. Eric expressed interest in doing another waste audit now that the composting program is underway. He last did one in 2013, and it could be interesting to see how or if library waste has changed. Others are welcome to participate. The audit would take place at the Recycling Center.

6. Ecogram

- i. Composting reminder, including guidelines for what can go in the bins.

7. Next meeting

- i. ill be 8/25 (Chair: Emilia Marcyk, Recorder: Aaron Tomak). All staff members are welcome to attend LEC meetings. Please email a LEC member if you are interested in attending a meeting.