

Palm Beach Community College
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Sustainability committee
Feb 13, 2008
2:30-4 pm
V-tel

ITEM 1. News of Note

Discussion:

1. A new (student) Ecology Club has formed at the LW campus thanks to the efforts of Prof. Pam Panno. Tracy met the new president and she seems to be very excited and motivated.
2. Dr. Bernadette Russell, provost at the Boca campus announced a new campus-wide policy that only recycled content paper will be purchased. Until this point, virgin paper was being used.
3. PBCC contracted with a new (humane) wildlife trapper, Pelican & Wildlife Rescue & Release. This licensed no-kill trapper has legal permission from a landowner for the relocation of healthy wildlife. Injured animals are taken to Folke Peterson Wildlife Center in Wellington.
4. There is now a Palm Tran bus stop on the Boca campus which will hopefully enable a greater number of students and employees to take advantage of mass transit. The new route connects with the Boca Tri-rail station.
5. Tracy J. and John W. were asked by Dr. Gallon to complete and submit the *National Wildlife Federation Campus Ecology Annual Benchmark Survey*. The survey was submitted so PBCC will now be a part of the benchmark data.

Action: none

ITEM 2. Focus the Nation (FTN)

Discussion: The events were a huge success. Tracy attended the evening concert and webcast (turned-video due to technical problems) at the Boca campus and reported well over 100 students in attendance. Pam and Sonia reported a standing room only crowd at the guest speaker panel in LW. Have not heard report from Belle Glade.

Action: None, but please congratulate FTN organizers on their success, which required many, many hours of time and dedication.

ITEM 3. "What We're Working On" – group reports

Discussion:

1. *Social Justice group* – Joanne Patton reported that the group is focusing on three initiatives at this time, conducting a living wage analysis; affordable housing; and an on-line database that will be incorporated into the Sustain. Comm. website. The database will allow people to submit activities/initiatives for consideration to be included in the list of activities undertaken by the College that work towards social justice within our community.
2. *Transportation* – Ali Fazelpour would like to see the College provide a "ride-share/mass transit" option for PBCC employees to travel to the upcoming Development Day. The fewer cars on the road, the better.
3. *Food Service* – Lynda Madnick reported that the group has decided upon two initiatives. The first is a pilot-test at the Boca campus cafeteria, "Meatless Mondays". The goal is *not* to encourage people to become vegetarian, but to educate people about the health and sustainable issues related to meat production and consumption vs. plant. Second, to work with Central Kitchen management to phase-out styrofoam use in place of something more sustainable.
4. *Procurement/Purchasing* – Joe Pugliano reported that the group's settled-upon initiative is to make recycled paper the standard for ALL copy machines across the district. He also reported that they will be working with Facilities to assure green products are being used for housekeeping on all campuses.
5. *Landscaping/Grounds* – David Cowan reported he met with fellow group member, and they decided their initiative will be to work with the Horticulture program manager to create a course focusing on related sustainability issues. He is hoping that many of the course activities can be in partnership with the Facilities Dept.
6. *Service learning* – Shelby Norris reported that she has been attending meetings led by PBCC's Service Learning Coord., Heidi Ladika-Cipolla, and their initiative is to plan events for this coming Earth Day. TC Courtyard has already been reserved.

Action:

1. Joanne will work with an IT person to create on-line database; Ellen Grace will conduct living wage analysis and examine what PBCC can do to assist with affordable housing issues in the community.
2. Ali will speak with Prof. Dev. Day committee chair, Kathy Gamble.
3. Jeanne Boone will meet with Central Kitchen manager to discuss "Meatless Mondays" idea. Group members will do resourcing research on styrofoam alternatives after obtaining relevant expenditure info. from CK manager.
4. Joe will let group members know if they can help with the recycled paper issue in some way.
5. David will speak with AS program manager about the proposed course.
6. Shelby will attend the Service Learning meeting on 2/15.

ITEM 4. Earth Day – April 22

Discussion: Tracy stated that she has heard some tid-bits of things already in the works at each campus for Earth Day. It was decided that there would be no "main" Sustain. Comm. project and instead, each campus would do whatever activities they like and the Sustain. Committee will try to collectively promote the activities and seek funding if necessary and requested. This decision may change if someone on the committee would like to coordinate a "main" committee Earth Day activity.

Action: Tracy will send an e-mail to Committee members by campus asking 1) if anybody has anything in-the-works for Earth Day already, and 2) if anybody is interested in planning Earth Day activities with people who have already expressed interest.

ITEM 5. Events and time required

Discussion: Tracy initiated a discussion about the desire to work on both College sustainability initiatives (policies and practices) and events. Working on both has been presenting a dilemma because events, although very successful so far, require a great deal of time on the part of committee members which means little to no time to work on policy/practice issues. We should be very careful when proposing events because we have to remember that 1) enough people need to volunteer so that the

work load is not on a small few, and 2) people only have a limited amount of time to dedicate to Committee activities so it may sometimes have to be an "either - or" decision.

ITEM 6. Facilities Dept. update

Discussion: John Wasukanis updated those in attendance about what sustainability initiatives are going on:

1. A "mini bus depot" is going to be built at the PBG campus (supports mass transit)
2. Palm Tran will be starting to go to the BG campus soon (supports mass transit)
3. Construction of a bus stop at the BR campus will begin in March 08.
4. Investigating the possibility of switching to low mercury content fluorescent lamps and new multi-level lighting options
5. Conducting an invitation only LEED charrette this month for the new Education Training Center being planned for the Belle Glade Campus. This will result in the design and construction of the College's first sustainable building. The Tech Education Building on the Lake Worth Campus is being planned to become remodeled into a sustainable building.
6. Chemical free ("green") cleaning products are currently being tested. If all goes well, we will officially switch to a "green cleaning" policy at the College beginning July 1. Green carpet cleaning techniques are already being tested on three campuses.
7. Updating the College's *General Building Design and Construction Standards* to incorporate LEED sustainable requirement in the design and construction of all future new buildings and major remodeling projects.
8. Investigating various recycling containers for use in a trial for the *Enhanced Recycling Program*.

Action: None

ITEM 7. Next meeting

Discussion: The group decided that our next meeting should be in April, which coincidentally, is the first “anniversary” of the Sustainability Committee. We may try to do something special in recognition of that fact and because it will be the end of the semester.

Attendance:

Tracy Joinson	David Cowan	Sonia Ortiz	Mary Harper
Shelley Hill	Shelby Norris	John Wasukanis	Joe Pugliano
Pam PannoZZo	Sandi Barrett	Joan Hirschhorn	Jeanne Boone
Lynda Madnick	Mary Harper	Joanne Patton	Marjie Simon
Jessie Rogers			

Submitted by:
Tracy Joinson,
Scribe