

Palm Beach Community College
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Sustainability Committee
April 25, 2008
2:30-4 pm

ITEM 1. Annual Report/Status Update

Discussion:

1. Tracy presented the PowerPoint presentation that was originally shown to the committee at the first meeting with the addition of "current status" information for many of the areas as well as some accomplishments of the Sustainability Committee for the past year.
2. It is the one year anniversary of the Sustainability Committee. Dr. Gallon thanked everyone for being part of the committee, and again reiterated his goal and support of PBCC becoming a model of sustainability.

Action: There are still some gaps in the current status of some areas (curriculum, Printing [Print Shop specifically], Service Learning). If anybody is willing to look into, please let Tracy know.

ITEM 2. Earth Day – April 22

Discussion: The events were a success. The committee hosted a table in LW and BR. We passed out about 225 green tote bags to students and staff and had other sustainability info. for people to take. The PBCC Foundation donated the tote bags and the other information was donated by Co-op America. In Boca, the cafeteria was crowded with students when speaker Barry Silver spoke. There were a handful of people attending the Boca and PBG campus Brown-Bag Workshops (residential solar) and twice as many at the Lake Worth campus (native landscaping).

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

ITEM 3. "What We're Working On" – Updates

Discussion:

1. *Building and Renovation* – John Wasukanis reported that the new building at the Belle Glade campus will be the first PBCC building to go for Gold or Silver LEED standard. We were also informed that the Tech Education building in Lake Worth will be renovated to follow more sustainable practices. He also reported that PBCC has been trying to bring in vendors for energy efficient light bulbs. We've already had to change the fixtures at our Palm Beach Garden and Boca Raton campuses to utilize these bulbs. Next on our list is the Belle Glade campus. North Campus began the construction of a permanent road, but it was moved for wildlife prevention. Possibility of introducing solar power to PBCC- Since it costs a lot to make a complete switch to solar power, the College has decided to start by maybe introducing solar water heaters first and look into an array of solar options.
2. *Curriculum* - LCG ecology club talked to Boca Campus provost, Dr. Russell about incorporating sustainability into the curriculum.
3. *Food Service* – Cafeteria manager from the Lake Worth campus used biodegradable plates for an event. We would like to try to infuse more sustainable practices in our new vendor contracts. Some concerns were raised about disposal of biodegradable trash materials mixed with other trash.
4. *Waste* - We spoke about the *Enhanced Recycled Program (ERP)*. Chris Ward informed Tracy that we did not get the Coke recycling bins grant. The ERP is ready for implementation of a pilot test, however waiting for funds to make it happen. Chris and John have expressed interest in having help with the educational campaign component.
5. *Grounds/Landscaping* - John Wasukanis informed us that a new landscape architect was hired to redesign the landscaping in Lake Worth to make it more sustainable.
6. *Housekeeping* – Our new contract is being negotiated now, which will include green cleaning products *entirely*. Our green cleaning program should be starting between May and June.
7. *Pest Control* - In order to help our trees resist a particular pest problem, (beetles vs. pine trees) we injected them with a particular chemical which appears to have helped repelled the insects without killing them with pesticides and save the trees.
8. *Printing* – We speculated as to why we don't have a recycling emblem on our recycled "products" (business cards, stationary, brochures, etc.). PBCC should really let everyone know what efforts we are making.
9. *Purchasing/Procurement* - Boca campus has made the switch to recycled paper *ONLY*. We're also proud to announce that we're working on using only recycled paper college-wide. Talked about ordering from a green catalog like BCC does.
10. *Transportation* - We now have a Tri-rail connection at the Boca Raton campus. Discussion items: talked about converting the school vehicles to electric (fuel bills have tripled in a few years)

other options include rechargeable golf carts; we should propose an e-bulletin on the Intranet for ride-sharing; V-tel rooms are said to be too small with tiny screens; we should have priority parking for electric cars; ongoing effort to provide group transportation for Development Days.

11. *Wildlife* – The College has contracted with a new wildlife trapper vendor. The new vendor has a “no-kill” policy and has an agreement with Folke Peterson Wildlife Center for injured animals.
12. *Social Justice* – On-line database is currently under development. Users will be able to submit items on-line for inclusion in the database. Sub-group members will review submissions and make a determination about whether it is related to social justice.

Action: Marissa will update the Committee’s website with any new Information (above). Groups will keep Tracy informed of updates, initiatives, projects, etc. so that the website can be kept updated and everyone will be informed, and volunteers/support can be sought if necessary (and wanted).

Item 4. Meeting w/ IT

Discussion: Tracy reported that she and Erin met with Chris Persaud (IT – Computer Resources) that morning to discuss sustainability initiatives related to IT that have been suggested by various people. Chris was very receptive, even coming with a list of his own. Recommendations were noted and Chris said that he would bring them forward to Anthony Parziale. The list of recommendations was circulated to those present and no objections were made.

Source: “Item A” - attached

Action: Tracy and/or Erin will follow-up with C. Persaud and/or A. Parziale

Item 5. Committee Budget

Discussion: Tracy announced that Erin recently informed her that the committee will have a (small) budget this coming year. No details yet about how much and source.

Action: Tracy will follow-up with Erin.

Item 6 Committee Student Assistant

Discussion: Tracy informed everyone that Marissa will be graduating at the end of this semester, so we will be without a student assistant until we can hire someone else.

Action: If anybody knows of a student who might be interested (environmentally-sustainability minded!), please let Tracy know.

Attendance:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Tracy Joinson | David Cowan | Sandi Barrett | Marissa Germain |
| Gina Rose | Bobette Wolesensky | John Wasukanis | Dr. Gallon |
| Melba Pena | Shelby Norris | Barbara Cipriano | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Submitted by:
Marissa Germain,
Scribe