

## Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting

10-23-2012 SGA Conference Room 5PM

### 1. Sustainability Fund

- a. Whiteboards done
- b. Website updated
- c. Getting posters done – fall deadline on one, will do another for spring
- d. Abby has expressed interest in funding a project
  - i. 4 new hydration stations
    1. Locations
      - a. Kress
      - b. Garden Café
      - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Library
      - d. Studio Arts
    2. Why?
      - a. Need to cut down on plastic water bottle usage. Also, like the fact how many bottles you saved because it creates environmental awareness. They are very convenient.
    3. Cost
      - a. They cost about \$1,000 each and the filters need to be replaced every year and cost \$160 each.
    4. Additional Information
      - a. Possibly could put art behind them to make them more attractive
    5. Questions:
      - a. Laurie: how flexible are you with your locations?
        - i. Abby: Anywhere is fine, these were just some of my ideas.
        - ii. Laurie: because is there a water fountain there?
        - iii. Abby: I'm not sure but I think a great place would be where Environmental Science and MAC split by the Garden Café
        - iv. Dan: We will have to talk to Paul about the locations
        - v. Laurie: also, in the Kress, we can only do it in the old part, not the newer part
    6. Dan: Abby just wanted to know if she should go forward with the application process on this project?
      - a. Taryn: I think it's a great idea but I would like the art to be student made all the way through
        - i. Dan: could we make this a contest? Like students get a reward for getting their art on it?
          1. Kyle: we actually can't give money for prizes because the fund is SUFAC funded
        - ii. Taryn: I would also like the art to be eco themed such as water quality, air quality, land waste, etc.
      - b. Dan: so are there other ideas for Abby?
        - i. Taryn: making sure on locations is the most important thing.
        - ii. Dan: I can talk to Paul and see where it could work. I'll try to set up a meeting with him.

c. General consensus of wanting Abby to go forward with the project

2. Multipurpose Area - Dan

- a. Breaking ground on Wednesday. Winning bid was \$72,000 and was awarded to a company from Fond Du Lac.
- b. They will be clearing the land except for selected trees. Following the clearing, drainage pipe will be installed to direct Storm water towards Shorewood Golf Course to help reduce their use of municipal potable drinking water. After this, the area will be seeded with a grass mix to emerge in the spring to reduce erosion.
- c. Talked about how there were still items that will have to be configured into the project. Including the addition of a native prairie planting on the north-east corner surrounded by low mow grass. As well as the installation of volleyball courts. He will be setting up a series of meetings after Thanksgiving to garner more student input on what they would like to see. Ideas included installing an edible garden, and types of native tree species students would like to see, as well as designs. Ideas ranged from having a student meeting, to having a booth in the University Union to allow students to provide feedback if they cannot attend a meeting.
- d. -Will talk to Paul because to make sure that we don't ruin a lot of the trees that are there because 80% of the roots of each tree are within the first 18 inches of the top soil

3. Eco Rush Week

- a. Going on this week so check out all of the events

4. Sustainability Committee

- a. Laurie: Tomorrow there will be a campus wide survey sent out about our commuting behaviors so please take that. There are also questions on Zimride to see how many people know about it and if it's impactful enough to renew. David Orr is coming, sustainability guru, working with Oberlin College and the city to make them both self-sustainable. He is coming to campus to speak but they wanted to know if there was anything we should do while he is here for the two days he is here.
- b. Dan: there are a lot of topics he covers: food, transportation, etc.

5. Zimride

- a. Dan: I actually made a poster for Zimride during my office hours and it will be on display tomorrow at Food Day. I think this should be our next project to try and raise awareness about it.
- b. Laurie: the survey will only be out for a week and a half. So if we can get more data to go on and see who is using/aware of this program.

6. WeCar

- a. Dan: WeCar is a program offered through Enterprise and a few other rental car companies. It allows students to use a vehicle on campus that basically you sign up to use the car, swipe your debit or credit card and you can then use the car. We would like to get two hybrid cars. There is a \$25 membership fee and then \$9 per hour.
- b. Laurie: and it's all electronic based so you know before you go how long you're going to be out.
- c. Dan: and I know that sounds like a lot but that also includes gas
- d. Taryn: I just don't know how many people are going to use it. I mean I didn't have a car my freshman year but when I needed to go somewhere, I just got a ride with a friend. And that is what I think most people will do before using this program.
- e. Trevor: do you know how they determine damage?
  - i. Laurie: well insurance is on them so we don't have to worry about that but I was told that students tend to take really good care of the car. Also, there would be a paid student internship for one of our students that would take care of the car. We will get more feedback from UW River Falls who just started this program as well.

- f. Dan: one other funding opportunity could possibly be RHAA too and they could advertise it and things because residents will be using this the most.
7. Other Announcements
- a. Kyle: what about the bike shelter plaque?
    - i. Dan: yes, we want to put a plaque onto the bike shelter talking about who is sponsoring it
    - ii. Kyle: and also why people should bike to campus. We could probably get some good data from the survey.
  - b. Survey ideas
    - i. Promote through booth with iPads/laptops and candy as incentive
    - ii. Time: 11-2?
    - iii. Locations: Garden Café, Union, Wood Hall
    - iv. Dan: I will contact you all for the final information.
  - c. Laurie: I have a student who is an MB intern and she is wanting to develop a pilot program for an Eco Rep program. She is presenting it to RHAA soon and is hoping to get some feedback. Basically this person would be paid and get a 1 credit hour and they would just promote sustainability in the on campus housing.
8. Adjournment at 5:47