

Green Committee Minutes

Thursday, 7 February 2008

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. AS 103C

Present: Dr. Denise Barkis Richter (Communications), Sandra Lamb (Recruitment), Robert Leal (Biology), Irene Scharf (Library), Lance Sandberg (Biology), Kirk Williams (Agriculture), Esther Rodriguez (Housekeeping), Larry Jackson (Corporate & Community Ed.), Dorothy Ulcak (Counseling), Deborah Dixon (Biology), Mary-Ellen Jacobs (English), Camille Fiorillo (Library) and Kim Corbin (Arts & Speech)

1. The second meeting of Palo Alto College's Green Committee was called to order by Dr. Denise Barkis Richter. Larry Jackson moved that the minutes of the January 10, 2008 meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Camille Fiorillo and was passed.

2. New members shared their interests and experience regarding going green.

a) Sandra Lamb wants to educate students to go green.

b) Lance Sandberg will help form a student interest club. He has experience with bio-remediation and inventing generators.

c) Larry Jackson said that new courses could be run through his department.

d) Dorothy Ulcak has been an environmentalist since the 1970's and is now concerned for her grandchildren. She wants us to do the right thing by going green.

e) Deborah Dixon will help form the student interest club. She has experience in sponsoring a student club at Laredo Community College which took an environmental focus.

f) Camille Fiorillo believes we can do more on our campus and that we should make good practices a part of life. We should educate by example.

3. Members reported on their assigned tasks from the last meeting.

a) Irene contacted the other ACC campuses to find out what green policies are in place. No response from NEL; SAC reported some difficulty with Acquisitions on recycling contracts; SPC reported individual instructors who are involved in various research and activities; NWV reported their biggest campus celebration is Earth Day, their president is very involved and they are considered ACC's greenest campus.

b) Kim met with Housekeeping staff to discuss paper recycling and forwarded the report to Denise. She spoke to Bonnie Thompson who manages the account in which funds generated from paper recycling are collected. The funds have been used for book scholarships for students and staff. She also

spoke with Larry Rodriguez, who serves as an advisor to Student Government, about coordinating their green efforts with the committee's. She did some preliminary research into restaurant grease recycling, but has not spoken to Sue in our cafeteria about that.

c) Denise said that Greg Pasztor is looking into a source for free trees to be given away at PACFest.

d) Denise told us that Mary-Ellen asked Vince to put a link to the committee's actions on the PAC web page, and that it was done quickly and effectively.

e) Denise continues in her role as green information gatherer and disseminator extraordinaire.

4. Members noted or questioned the following:

a) Denise showed us an inexpensive, compact, zip-up, recycling shopping bag she'd found at Target that could be a model for what we sell at PACFest.

b) Irene noted that 100 college presidents have signed sustainability resolutions. Denise suggested that such a resolution could be part of PAC's mission statement.

c) Denise told us that the president had forwarded a Nation Wildlife Federation survey to her. She read it to us with the answers that she submitted to the federation.

d) Larry said that CE has an Environmental Technology program with OSHA certification that includes classes in hazardous materials safety and disposal.

e) Dorothy wondered if there could be a Green Specialist certification. Denise suggested plugging an environmental class into the core curriculum.

f) Kim believes the District may have green policies built into the planning of new construction projects. Irene said that San Antonio has a resolution for building city facilities green.

g) Denise said the president has an area in mind to be planted with wildflowers. Kirk noted that the seeds must be planted at a certain time of the year and the project requires planning and resources.

i) Denise said that the cafeteria contract is up for renewal and she wondered if green practices, such as the use of biodegradable plates and utensils, could be written into the contract.

j) Camille suggested getting labels made and distributed that would designate which trash receptacles are for paper recycling.

k) Esther said another Abitibi paper recycling container would be very useful. It could possibly be placed by the Business and Social Sciences buildings.

l) Dorothy said that unwanted cell phones are currently being collected by the PASSkey program for the Battered Women's Shelter.

m) Sandra noted that Yolanda Jimenez is PAC's grants writer and that we could pursue funding through her. Irene said Leon Valley received a grant from the AIA for their sustainable community.

n) Denise shared suggestions from Brenda Williams at Alamo Area Council of Governments regarding ridesharing, biking, etc., as well as mowing policies on Air Quality Health Alert days and the purchase of Energy Star office machines. AACOG can provide informational materials for us to share with our community.

o) Lance believes students can design our Go Green graphic and that a design contest would spark interest. Kim advocated for graphic designer Mike Salas, who is contracted by PAC, to do the design.

p) Irene suggested visiting www.grist.org for environmental news and commentary with a sense of humor. On that site, search "15 green colleges and universities" to see the successes of other educational institutions. Kim suggested visiting www.utsa.edu and searching "recycling" to see how much is being done here in San Antonio. (Housekeeping Foreman E. Reyna told her about this.)

q) Irene passed out flyers for Leon Valley's Earthwise Day February 23, as well as copies of their resolution to adopt a plan with goals for sustainability by 2020.

r) Kirk is looking for volunteers for a project to plant trees around bus stops on March 1.

s) Irene noted that Julia Jarrell would be a good resource and collaborator for our group, along with her CASS teachers.

4. Tasks to accomplish before the next meeting:

a) Kim will meet with Vince Bosquez and Luis Mercado in PR about purchasing shopping bags printed with our graphic for PACFest. She will type the National Wildlife Federation questions to be distributed to the committee.

b) Denise will check into the manufacturer of the fold-up Target bags.

c) Leandro Esparza will attend the District Recycling Committee meeting on behalf of Palo Alto.

d) Deborah will look into reserving a table with Student Activities for the Club Fair.

e) Camille, Deborah, Denise, Lance and Sandra will convene the PACFest sub-committee.

f) Esther will find out how many lights on campus are automated with motion detectors.

g) Mary-Ellen, Greg and Denise will draft a declaration of environmental sustainability to be approved by the committee and forwarded to the president.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00. The next committee meeting will take place on Thursday, March 6 at 2:00 in AS 103C.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kim Corbin