

Green Committee Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2008

AS103C

Attendees: Margarita McAuliffe, Leandro Esparza, Lance Sandberg, and Denise Barkis Richter

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

Leandro Esparza moved that the minutes from the Green Committee's February 2, 2008, meeting be approved. Lance Sandberg seconded the motion.

Denise asked that the Declaration of Environmental Sustainability crafted by Mary-ellen Jacobs, Greg Pasztor and herself be approved. The attendees thought that the Declaration should be kept short and sweet. To that end, a few of the items were edited. The new version will be sent to the entire committee for its approval. Once approved, it will be given to the college's president for her approval.

Denise passed out a goal-setting worksheet adapted from the Go Green Initiative's Planning Guide for committee members to begin to figure out ways to put our Declaration into action. Committee members will be asked to identify which of the nine sub-areas (fostering environmental citizenship, reducing solid waste, maximizing recycling, conserving water, reducing energy consumption, protecting natural habitat and indigenous wildlife; improving air quality, purchasing green supplies, food and equipment; supporting green building opportunities when remodeling/constructing) they would like to help investigate and implement. We would like to have at least one Green Committee member per subcommittee, who may then open the subcommittee up to anyone who's interested. Of the meeting's attendees, Leandro would like to focus on recycling, Lance would like to focus on protecting natural habitat and indigenous wildlife, and Margarita would like to focus on improving air quality.

Denise unveiled the Green Committee's logo, which was designed by Graphic Artist Michael Salas. "VIVA VERDE" (Go green! Live green!) will appear on t-shirts, reusable bags, posters, fliers, etc. throughout campus. She thanked Vince Bosquez, Luis Mercado and Kim Corbin for their help in making this logo a reality. According to Kim, Vince has agreed to have 500 reusable bags with the VIVA VERDE logo to be given away at PACfest. Also, Club Earth, the newly reformed student organization, will sell VIVA VERDE t-shirts for \$7 leading up to and during PACfest.

Leandro reported that he, Kim Corbin, and Sandra Lamb attended the District Recycling Committee, which is being chaired by Northwest Vista's President Jackie Claunch. The District currently has a contract for recycling paper, but it is up for re-bid. Karen Gottfried at District will put it out for bid. Not all vendors take all recycled materials. Leandro reported that John Strybos from District wants to make sure that the costs associated with recycling are considered. Dr. Claunch would like for the chancellor to sign off on a District-wide commitment to recycling. Denise shared the plastic/aluminum can numbers that Kim brought back from the meeting. From February 2007 to January 2008, Palo Alto College received shipment of 103,512 plastic bottles and 17,208 aluminum cans. (The bookstore accounted for an additional 11,328 plastic bottles, 115 cans, and 57 glass containers.) Leandro also mentioned that he and Sandra are on a District subcommittee to identify best practices at other colleges so that we don't spend time reinventing the wheel.

Lance reported that Club Earth has five students who are willing to serve as officers. The paperwork to reform the club has been completed. Publicity is needed. Leandro recommended setting up a table in the cafeteria from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. to get the names, phone numbers and e-mails of interested students. Denise offered to help design a flier to be posted on the bulletin boards around campus.

Denise showed the Go Green webpage to the committee that Vince Bosquez and Duncan Perez put together for the committee. The minutes from our past two meetings are posted, as are links to VIA Metropolitan Transit, the San Antonio Wheelmen (cyclists) and the Texas Wanderers (walking). Denise will work with Vince to provide links for the HELPFUL HINTS and ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS sections.

PACfest is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, two days after Earth Day, and the committee plans to work with Club Earth to secure a booth for distribution of environmental information.

Leandro would like to invite someone from Institutional Research to serve on the Go Green Committee to help identify grant money for our work. Denise will extend the invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, at 2 p.m. in AS103 C.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Denise Barkis Richter, Ph.D.