

Go Green! ;Viva Verde! Committee Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009, 1:30 p.m.

AS 103C

Attendees: Esther Rodriguez, Facilities; Kim Corbin, Fine and Performing Arts/Speech; Anna Rodriguez, Library; Thomas Murguia, Learning Labs; Brad Chandler, Biology; and Denise Barkis Richter, Communications.

Denise opened the meeting shortly after 1:30 p.m. and asked for the February minutes to be approved. Brad moved for the minute's approval, which were unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Russ (Environmental Citizenship Subcommittee) was not able to attend the meeting, but he reported via e-mail that he's working on environmental education activities for PACfest in the children's area, like making a game of sorting recyclables from trash. He would also like for Palo Alto's student ambassadors to add a recycling component to their tour of the college to explain how our program works and encourage others to participate.

Kim (Recycling and Solid Waste Subcommittee) reported that many of the buildings on campus are closing during Spring Break, so recycling volunteers will need to be shifted. The library has seven new recycling volunteers on board: Dean Tina Mesa, Staff Members Cynthia Sanchez, Shelby Rogers and Anna Rodriguez, Adjunct Librarian Ruth Swan, and Work-Studies Evelyn Villarreal and Catalina Villarreal. Denise mentioned that she'd like to send out a "Spring Cleaning" pacall to remind everyone that paperback books may be placed directly into the gray recycle bins, but hardback books need to have their covers taken off before being placed in the gray bins. Brad suggested that we have a used book giveaway (re-use) during PACfest rather than recycling the books. Palo Alto rescued 4,420 pounds of recyclables in February, bringing the year's total up to 9,680 pounds.

Kirk and Greg (Natural Habitat and Indigenous Wildlife Subcommittee) were not able to attend, but Kirk reported via e-mail that he's working on getting bids for a chipper so that tree limbs will be kept out of our trash dumpsters. He also said that he needs help counting the native plants on campus to get the Texas Wildscape Certification. Denise said that she would contact Deborah Dixon to see if that's a task the Club Earth members would be interested in completing.

Brad (Water Conservation) reported that he ran into a legal issue with Bexar Met. They'd like a notarized letter saying he has permission to receive the college's water usage information. He will continue to chip away at getting Palo Alto into the graywater system for the irrigation of the college.

Thomas (Green Building/Renovation) encouraged everyone to attend the Environmental Site Assessment Question and Answer Session on Monday, March 23, at 2:30 p.m., in Performing Arts, Room 109. He also said that he's been invited to a meeting about the Learning Labs Building renovation, and he will bring up renovating the building using green practices.

Camille (PACfest) wasn't able to attend, but she reported via e-mail that she plans to decorate the booth at PACfest with clothesline, "fun" clothes, and clothespins to encourage attendees to dry their clothes outside. She also has been collecting environmental fliers and pamphlets to distribute. Vince reported via e-mail that the reusable grocery bags imprinted with VIVA VERDE that we will give out during PACfest have arrived. Finally, Camille asked that a sign-up sheet be started for PACfest, which runs from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. this year. She would like at least two people per hour. Please contact Camille at cfiorillo@mail.accd.edu to volunteer.

Denise reported that she attended the Earthwise Living Day in Leon Valley on Saturday, Feb. 28, and picked up a ton of environmental education information. She spoke with representatives from Keep San Antonio Beautiful, Metropolitan Planning Organization (Bicycle/Pedestrian Transportation Coordinator), Environmentally Friendly Electric Vehicles (www.nogas.us), Greenstar, Corona Visions, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Alamo Area Council of Governments, and the Edwards Underground Aquifer Authority to see if they would like to donate any information or items to distribute during PACfest at our green booth. Denise said that AACOG underwrote Corona Vision's retrieval of attendees' electronic waste. She asked if we could find an underwriter to provide this service for PACfest's attendees? One of the things the green committee said that we'd like to do during PACfest is to let people know where the drop-off sites for hazardous waste are in San Antonio, and what constitutes hazardous waste.

Denise called the meeting to a close shortly after 2:15 p.m. and thanked the committee members for their continued work. The committee's next meeting will be on Thursday, April 2, at 1:30 p.m. in AS103C. Please make every effort to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Barkis Richter, Ph.D.