

Sustainability Committee Minutes 4 November 2009

Sharples Room 4

Attending:

Sustainability Committee members: Nicole Lewis, David Burgy, Linda McDougal, Eric Chiang, Eric Wagner, Joy Charlton, HG Chissell, Rebecca Ringle, Carr Everbach

Carr opened the meeting with the question of whether or not SusCom should have all open meetings and/or a reserved position for EarthLust representation, since EarthLust has requested a stronger role in our deliberations. Nicole asked about affiliations of current student SusCom members, and the students present identified affiliations with EarthLust (RR), Environmental Justice (EC), Good Food (RR), and the Green Advisors (RR), as well as the Intercultural center groups (DB). Nicole suggested that students should provide a digest of student group activities/initiatives at each open meeting. Others agreed that every other meeting being open is probably the best strategy to make sure "we are all rowing in same direction."

Joy asked whether the Lang Center Intern might not have a role, and HG suggested that, as liaison for student groups, the Lang Center Intern (now Rebecca) could make sure student groups know about open meetings and agenda items.

In that spirit, Rebecca announced that EarthLust is compiling a list of ideas of projects interesting enough for students to donate their weekend. Nicole suggested that we post the list on the wall during the meeting (and on our website) listing who is responsible for each item, list of things accomplished, things moving, things stuck. Carr asked if SusCom should establish a priority list. Eric Wagner noted three competing components: the College Administration's ability to accomplish GreenBox action items, Facilities' ability to do things, and students' ability to do things. Carr suggested that SusCom could manage the workflow, establish priorities, and document what happens on our website.

Nicole thought this plan worked fine for the long-term or high-cost action items, but urged the committee to take quick action on smaller items for which there is no reason not to implement. Carr agreed that EarthLust could help us identify which items like this can be easily accomplished, but noted that sometimes what seems like a good idea actually may not promote sustainability. He cited the replacement of paper bowls with ceramic ones, which reduces solid waste but may use more hot water. One would have to conduct a study (such as David is doing) to verify that some low-cost action items are worthwhile.

HG described an effort to raise money for funding the chicken coop proposal by having a party in Philadelphia for alumni that would be a fundraiser. He noted difficulties with coordinating with the Alumni Office and Development Office. Eric Wagner described how fundraisers for soccer team alumni are conducted. After

some discussion, it was decided to invite both Alumni and Development representatives to the Monday, November 16, SusCom meeting, to discuss this issue.

Joy asked the status of chicken coop proposal, and whether or not the Elm Street neighbors had been contacted to let them know it was coming. Rebecca thought they had been, but will try to find out. Maurice might know where this stands.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carr Everbach (notetaking assistance from Rebecca Ringle)

Remaining meetings this semester:

Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Room 4: open meeting joint with EarthLust to discuss specific projects, especially Green Revolving Loan Fund nominees (nb; Ralph sent Facilities suggestions to SusCom for discussion).

Monday, November 16, 2009, 11:30 am-12:30 pm Lang Center Keith Room: closed meeting for SusCom discussion, Lisa Lee and Geoff Semenuk (Alumni) and Don Cooney (Development) are invited to discuss Sustainability fundraising issues.

Wednesday, November 25, 2009, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Room 4: open meeting with EarthLust, Good Food, EJ, Green Advisors, or any other group who wants to attend.

Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Room 4: closed meeting for SusCom discussion of finalists in Green Revolving Loan Fund proposals received Tuesday, December 1

Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 8:30-9:30 am Sharples Room 4: open meeting with EarthLust to discuss preliminary ranking of Green Revolving Loan Fund projects.

Monday, December 14, 2009, 11:30-12:30 Lang Center Keith Room: meeting open to the public for final tallied voting by SusCom members on Green Revolving Loan funding of projects.