

Environmental Advisory Committee
February 23rd, 2015
3:00 to 4:00pm, Ozawindib

Attendance:

Dave Bahr, Erika Bailey-Johnson, Tim Brockman, Brian Brown, Anna Carlson, Paul Ekhoﬀ, Alexandra Miller, Jennifer Miner (ARAMARK), Trevor Smith, Dan Vosberg

Guest:

Mikayla Boyd

1. Welcome
2. Students for the Environment Report (Alex)
 - a. Do It in the Dark is ending this week!
 - b. Elections will be held during the March Do It in the Dark Party
 - c. Bottled Water discussion was held 2/22/15
 - d. Prioritized events due to limited budget
3. Sustainability Office Report (Erika)
 - a. UMACS Conference update: held a local committee meeting on Friday to figure out cost for a guest to attend. Now looking into how to get people to register for the conference.
4. Sustainable Campus Research Award (Erika)
 - a. Erika is looking for members to be on a committee for the research award. The EAC has \$500 to give away for another project this year.
 - b. Committee members: Alex Miller, Brian Brown
5. SAFAC/Green Fee (Erika)
 - a. Roughly \$50,000 generated per year. Half of Anna's salary comes out of the Green Fee.
 - b. Looking at raising the Green Fee \$10.00, which would put our new budget at \$108,000 per year.
 - c. \$32,000 is for salary/benefits
 - d. Some things that always stay in the budget: Farmer's Market, Green Fee Mini Grants, student pay, etc.
 - e. Need feedback on the following:
 - I. \$10,000 for Elkay stations to be put at least one in every academic building, 7 total.
 - II. \$5,000 for reusable water bottles. A little more than we usually do, but have about \$2000 worth of bottles available for purchase at cost through the Sustainability Office.
 - i. Tim wondered about the Bookstore
 - III. \$2,000 to renovate the Free Store to include a Food Shelf
 - IV. \$10,000 to connect all Residential Halls to energy dashboards
 - V. \$3,200 for Bike Friendly University
 - VI. \$35,000 for two things: shares in a community solar garden or Zip Car?
 - ii. Brockman suggested investing our money instead of allowing it to roll over.
 - iii. If the money went for Zip Car, it would be a reserve fund that would cover the costs if the cars were not in use.
 - iv. If the money went for a community solar garden, we would invest in a chunk of solar panels and be credited back to our bill.
 - v. Bahr made a point that Zip Car would be more visible.
 - vi. Carlson made a point that the solar garden would be reducing our carbon footprint.
 - vii. Brockman suggested that we include a few solar panels on campus with signage to make the solar garden an educational asset.
6. Bottled Water Policy Conversation (Alex and Erika)
 - a. Brockman said as long as there is viable alternative available he is in favor.

- b. Miner said we may not reduce plastic any less, but she is in favor because even though dining services may be losing money, pepsi and coke will just be replacing it. It would be beneficial to educate on what the Elkay water stations do.
- a. Boyd said we should get more recycling stations on campus.
- b. Erika said she thinks that the industry has marketed to the point that consumers are confused. We would be making a statement.
- c. Miller she is in support because the bill is a statement that we don't support the bottled water industry, and also to support our municipal water.
- d. Brown said that there are issues with the large amounts of plastic, and there is a risk with knowing what is or isn't in bottled water.
- e. Carlson supports the bill because it forces a conversation and brings people together to learn about the issues.
- f. Vosberg supports the bill because it is a start to reducing our plastics and set an example for other schools.
- g. Bahr is against the bill because civil liberties and rights. In this case we are restricting civil liberties from bottled water companies, and from students. Buying bottled water does not harm people so this civil liberty shouldn't be taken away. This conversation should include those whose rights are being taken away. He would like to see quantitative results. He made a point that we do not have free water, BSU still bears those costs. We are simply transferring of costs to other communities, not our own.
- h. Brockman brought up that we are preventing the Tragedy of the Commons again.
- i. Erika brought up that we are responsible for educating people to know why we are not providing bottled water.
- j. Paul's job is to encourage job retention. He wants to make sure that there is open communication for students to make sure they have what they need. Communicate out the Elkay stations on what they do and do not do.
- k. Smith is in favor because it makes a statement, it is a market that shouldn't exist, and the lack of perfect information.
- l. Bahr brought up that the cost of Elkay stations, reusable bottles, and the cost of water. He does not make it free.
- m. Paul thanked Bahr for his comments that they are important.
- n. Carlson commented that if we were affecting our own water, we would take more consideration on our choices.

7. Transportation Update (Erika)

- a. Tabled until next meeting