

Sustainability Charter Committee Minutes

Monday, April 19 @ 9:00-10:30 am pm via Zoom

Present: Matthieu Biger, Michelle Fravel, Joseph Haggarty, Erin Irish, Melissa Meisterheim, Laurie Ponto, Heather Sander, Sam Schauer

Absent: Libby Smith, Amanda Thompson

Liaisons: Ben Fish, Stratis Giannakouros

Ex Officio: Rich Hichwa, Glen Rogers, Tony Senio

Staff: Beth MacKenzie, Blake Rupe

Guests: Dave Brown, Scott Gritsch, Charles Stanier

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements
 - a) [Earth Day](#) Updates: talks are scheduled, scavenger hunt is being facilitated by the biology club, recorded dance performance ready to be shared
 - b) Health professions college strategic plans update: recommendation to reach out to Peter Thorn and Edith Parker in public health for guidance in forming consistent recommendation for strategic plans in health professions colleges across campus
 - c) UIHC: received approval to join [Practice GreenHealth](#) for one year – subscription will extend access to all staff, faculty and students
3. Landscaping Presentation – Dave Brown
 - a) Mission for landscaping is broad and encompasses health, wellness, recruitment, retention, and function (among others)
 - b) Current Sustainability Efforts
 - i. All fallen trees are turned into mulch
 - ii. Partnering with Bur Oak Land Trust to plant more Paw Paw trees enhance butterfly population
 - iii. Pollinator garden creation: Lagoon house is a current project site for a pollinator garden
 - iv. Creating a rain garden near Finkbine
 - Goals: 1) control the water so that it won't travel across the sidewalks and 2) create a water filter system
 - v. Questions: What is UI doing to minimize chemical treatments?
 - Integrated pest management is being investigated, trending toward the use of less chemicals. It is a complex issue as management of invasive species is necessary as well.
 - Student pesticide protest recently:
 - Students request better communication when pesticides used (Hawk alert for example), elimination of the use of most concerning substances
 - Direct communication between students and Dave suggested for future
 - vi. Landscaping group was commended for taking care of a large institution with limited staff
 - vii. Salt management

- Dave plans to focus on education/training to prevent oversalting. It is a safety issue so a balance must be struck between risk mitigation vs. over-salting and the environmental issues that ensue.
- viii. Electric vehicles and mowers and tools?
- Technology is beginning to catch up with needs – the first in market of these just weren't strong/sturdy enough for the high utilization at a campus of this size but will hopefully be able to be utilized as models/technology improves.
- ix. Embracing natural habitat vs meeting public expectations about appearances
- Signage educating the public about the purpose of the natural habitat can help the community understand un-managed areas (sign with QR code for education). Research has demonstrated that incorporating aspects of managed landscape into natural landscape can make it better accepted among the public.
 - One plan is to move landscaping to plants that are more native/regional native that will require less maintenance
 - 2030 Goal: have the living laboratory goal specifically stated in our University 2030 goals may help with these efforts because then it becomes a campus goal that landscaping can refer to.
4. 2020 Final Report and 2030 Goals
- a) Only final updates are needed and then it will be ready to share. Need to identify how best to share – may consider faculty senate and student governance support to encourage University to use wide communication channels for this.
 - b) Strategic Communication is aware of this report, next steps will be to determine with them what roll out is preferred and then what are they willing/able to assist with
 - c) Additionally, strategic communications can also help create connection with local media (ex. Gazette)
 - d) Timing of announcements in relation to the start of the new president is also something to consider
 - e) Consider October faculty senate meeting for 2020 report and announcement of 2030 goals
5. Next meetings
- a) May 17, 2021 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM.
6. Adjournment