

HMSC Sustainability Committee
Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2008

Members Present: Anjanette Baker, Devin Brakob, Judy Mullen, Sharon Nieukirk, Jay Peterson
Visitor: Lisa Mulcahy

Next Meeting: Tuesday: Nov. 4, 10:30am, Library Seminar Room

MINUTES:

1. Seafest and Sustainability: Presentation by Lisa Mulcahy

Lisa reported on her discussions with Charlie Ruff, Assistant Manager of the Oregon Country Fair, about how waste and energy issues are handled at the fair each June. Perhaps we can improve SeaFest's waste flow by reviewing methods used at the Oregon Country Fair. Her report was submitted to this committee. Though several waste-reduction efforts were made at SeaFest 2008 (such as the use of compostable dishes) the groundwork for continued development of a greener SeaFest can be led by the HMSC Sustainability Committee—and should be planned as early as possible. Questions regarding how to reduce and dispose of the waste from food vending, how to use greener power sources and how to encourage participants toward greener practices (bike riding or using public transportation, for example) need consideration and potential solutions. Using compostable dishes makes sense, except it is difficult to find a local composter for large-scale jobs. The committee could contact the Master Gardeners or OSU Extension Office (Sam Angima) about composting possibilities. The group discussed using biodiesel in generators, the possibility of using durable dishes which could be purchased and reused, and getting the "Solar Roller" truck to provide power.

Action: Judy will find out if the Lincoln City community garden has an "Earthtub" composter.

2. Brown Bag Speakers:

October 20th Brownbag: Paul Amundson will speak about proposed improvements to Newport's reservoir and water treatment plant. This issue is a bond measure on the upcoming Nov. 4th ballot.

Ken plans to write a news release to invite community members as well.

Action: Send news release to News Times and reminder to HMSC folks.

Action: Who can post flyers?

November Brownbag: Chris Diamond (Oregon Dept. of Energy) will speak at a brownbag in November, but can only do it on a Monday or a Friday. Sharon Nieukirk will contact him to ask if he can speak on Friday, Nov. 14.

Action: Sharon Nieukirk will ask if he can speak on Friday, November 14th.

December Brownbag: Randy Walker can speak either in November or December.

Robert VanCreveld has also offered to talk again. Michael Davis's name came up as potential speaker about living "off the grid". Mark Saelens? contact is Ken Hall

Action: Devin Brakob will contact PUD again to see if someone can talk about energy audits.

3. Transportation survey:

Anjanette received the raw data from Lincoln County's Transportation Survey, but has not compiled it yet; she will report the results at the next meeting.

The committee has previewed two rideshare websites that HMSC may be able to sponsor and use: They are:

AlterNetRides: http://alternaterides.com/welcome1.asp?location_key=

CarpoolmatchNW.org: <http://www.carpoolmatchnw.org/>

The OSU campus in Corvallis has chosen to use the AlterNetRides website, above.

Craig's list also has a rideshare list: example-- <http://portland.craigslist.org/rid/>

The committee noted that the Valley Retriever Shuttle that runs three times per week.

The group discussed the potential benefit of placing a bulletin board in the HMSC mailroom on which notes from drivers and riders could be posted. Anjanette would like to post such a board. We discussed whether this may conflict with online postings, and if online postings could be printed out and placed on the board as well?

No decision yet on the best rideshare solution for HMSC folks.

4. Sustainability Webpage

The group agreed that the Sustainability Committee needs to create a webpage which could be linked to the HMSC website. We brainstormed information that could be listed on such a page: committee meeting date, place and time; meeting minutes; featured events and brownbag speakers; mission statement, projects and goals of group; useful green links, recycling information, alternative transportation and rideshare information; green improvements around HMSC. We need to find someone who is willing to be webmaster of such a site. We wondered if there are grad students who may want to do this? Or Computer Science students? Action: Devin Brakob will review a few sustainability websites from other universities as potential models.

OSU site: <http://oregonstate.edu/sustainability/>

UC Berkley: <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/>

UW: <http://www.washington.edu/facilities/conservesustainability>

Princeton: <http://www.princeton.edu/sustainability/psc/>

5. Announcements

The League of Conservation Voters website displays an interactive scorecard for Oregon legislators at: <http://www.olcv.org/accountability>

6. Debriefing of last brownbag session

The committee felt that Thompson's Sanitary had done an excellent job of informing us about local waste issues. We thought we should invite them each year since recycling rules are in flux and always changing.

7. Old Action Items:

Ken Hall will talk to George Boehlert about support for the committee. Ken Hall will call Mark Saelens about speaking at a brownbag. Ken Hall: Find out who can create a webpage for us