

## **HMSC Sustainability Committee meeting 3/16/2011**

**Present:** Maryanne Bozza, Melissa Murphy, Todd Cross, Judy Mullen, Tom Wainwright, Anjannette Baker, Christina Folger, Randy Walker, Jennifer Menkel, Sharon Nieukirk, Rick Brown

### **1. Brown Bags**

The March and April BB seminars have been scheduled with March 23<sup>rd</sup> hosting a seminar on Worm Bins and April 5<sup>th</sup> a presentation from the Newport High School Sustainability Club.

It was agreed that the entire Sustainability Committee would be responsible for organizing and scheduling Brown Bag Seminars. Each member of the committee needs to organize one seminar a year and is responsible for developing the promotional materials and reserving the seminar room. It was suggested to use the library's room calendar when scheduling these events.

Possible Spring and Summer Brown Bags were suggested by Anjennette, Randy, Sharon, and Christina. The categories included:

1. (Sharon - May) A representative from the local Food Bank to discuss "grow a row for the hungry",
2. (Anjennette - June) A representative from the Newport City Council to discuss city efforts to be sustainable,
3. (Randy - July) Chloe Rico to discuss social food web efforts to connect local farmers and consumers as well as school programs,
4. (Christina - August) Primo Knight to discuss wind turbine implementation at the EPA building, and
5. (Anjennette - Sept) A representative from Habitat for Humanity.

There was a lot of discussion about the local effort to connect farmers with other farmers and farmers with consumers. Randy will send some information about upcoming events and how to get involved.

### **2. Sustainability Award**

The 2010 Sustainability Award was given to Janet Webster for her decisive and effective direction on where to place the new covered bike rack. The announcement was made at the January (2011) holiday party but will be updated and posted on the SC website.

### **3. OSU Sustainability Committee**

Representatives from the OSU (Corvallis) Sustainability Committee visited HMSC and spoke with the HMSC Sustainability Committee about efforts on the main campus and how the HMSC group could improve our efforts in Newport which resulted in the current structure of the committee.

The OSU Sustainability Committee would like a representative from HMSC to attend yearly or quarterly meetings in Corvallis. Maryann has offered to be the initial representative for HMSC but would appreciate if other members would like to rotate into the position.

### **4. Project Updates:**

#### **a) Vanpool (Melissa)**

The HMSC vanpool is up and running and is doing great. Currently the 9 person van has steady membership and is full (approx 7 riders) on a daily basis. There is room to grow and the group is planning on expanding their efforts to recruit members from Newport as a whole. The committee has been asked to continue promoting the vanpool and Melissa will continue to work with them to help promote the program.

Maryann commented on the positive community aspects that this venture has had for HMSC and it was suggested to develop a flyer or other outreach to educate the public on the sustainability benefits from

the vanpool. Also suggested was to park the van where it is more visible and possibly get a designated spot for it.

**b) OUS Sustainability Conference (Todd)**

Todd attended the OUS (Oregon University System) Sustainability Conference in Corvallis and brought back interesting information about other universities' efforts to be sustainable. The items that stuck out to him were:

1. Rutgers and Arizona State are out performing all other schools in the country as far as sustainability.
2. The "Power of Purchasing" was key to the success of these schools and programs. A website to review and forward is *responsiblepurchasing.org*.
3. The effectiveness of using contracts as leverage for encouraging suppliers to be more sustainable.
4. Follow up letters with contract suppliers to encourage compliance.
5. Green-washing is a major problem especially when purchasing sustainably. Canada exceeds other countries in avoiding Green-washing.
6. Worst product in the world, in regards to sustainable use, is the can of computer cleaner regularly used by millions of people. The lifecycle of this product is not sustainable.
7. Rutgers codes certain products as unacceptable/unsustainable and programs their purchasing programs and credit cards to reject these purchases.
8. *Living Building Challenge*: a step beyond LEED certification. LBC does not award certification for a year to be sure that not only the materials used to build are sustainable but the practices to maintain the building and business are sustainable.

**c) Bike Shelter (Sharon)**

The bike shelter is in and available for use. The committee is asked to continue spreading the word about the bike shelter to encourage use.

**d) Recyclemania (Sharon & Judy)**

Sharon and Judy have been working on how to quantify our recycling effort at HMSC but would like to take it to the next level by stratifying by type of recycled material and how we can do more outreach. Presently Thompsons also collects data on our recycling so we have two data sets to compare.

**d) Website Development (Maryann)**

Candace, with input from the working group, has developed an impressive website for the HMSC sustainability committee and will continue managing this project. The committee is asked to review the site and send any comments or suggestions to Candace. Candace will share these with the working group which will decide how to edit or amend the current site.

**e) Rain Catchment/Transportation Survey (Maryann)**

Update postponed until next quarterly meeting

**5. Working Group**

The working group for this quarter will be Maryann, Sharon, Judy, Melissa, Todd, and Christina with Candace acting as our permanent website expert but not necessarily taking part in all the working group activities (unless she wants to).

Working Group projects for this quarter will be:

1. (Sharon & Judy) Recycling issues and efforts.
2. (Melissa) Transportation issues, primarily the "We Truck" and "Community Bikes".
3. (Maryann & Candace) Website

Anjennette volunteered to contact Kate Goodwin about developing a HMSC Sustainability Tour next quarter.