

## **SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING - MINUTES**

4/9/20 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **MEMBERS:**

David Lucier (Chair), Chris Martinez, Lauren Berkow, John Duncan, Wilcley Lima, Amy Stein, Ariel Pomputius, Matt Williams, Ravish Paul, Dustin Stephany, Cindy Craig, Mehmet Genc, Les Thiele, Kristin Joys

#### **GUESTS/NON-MEMBERS:**

Tanya Hughes, Liz Storn, Hannah Ulloa, Fiona Hogan

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 12:35 pm (David Lucier, Chair)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ariel Pomputius moved to approve minutes from 3/12/20 meeting, seconded by Amy Stein. The minutes were approved.

### **DISCUSSION WITH TANYA HUGHES**

Tanya Hughes, Associate Director of Facilities Operations for UF Student Affairs, was invited to the meeting to share with committee members about ongoing and developing sustainability initiatives in her area. Her presentation focused on **the Housing Green Team**.

- Due to COVID-19, the majority of these projects have either been paused or are being forced to redirect their focus to allow for remote working.
- The Housing Green Team was working with residents to promote recycling and had recently launched paper towel composting with success.
  - Paper towel composting is *not* available in campus suites and apartments yet due to staffing and logistical challenges.
- The Housing Green Team group is also working to develop education resources for the housing & residence website.
- This group is working to add new components to their Green Teams structure including a social justice component.
- A key challenge the Housing Green Team faces is getting students to use recycling stations.
- The Housing Green Team has been coordinating with local group the Repurpose Project to help during the move-out process so that they can reclaim some bulkier items and other reusable items.
- Through the efforts of the Housing Green Team, Housing & Residence Education was one of the first on campus to have their own sustainability plan and has a long history of coordinating with the Office of Sustainability.
- The Housing Green Team meets biweekly and members of the Sustainability Committee are welcome to join and sit in on meetings.

## **COVID-19 CHECK-IN**

In the Office of Sustainability, **Matt Williams** shared about the transition to remote working for that office. Many events have been cancelled, but some are pivoting to online platforms including many of the events meant to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. The Office of Sustainability is also producing materials to facilitate the process of remote working as well as supporting student organizations to continue their work. These materials will continue to be shared on the Sustainable UF social media platforms as they are developed.

**Wilcley Lima** began a conversation about remote-working and its benefits in terms of sustainability (re: reduced transportation burden, reduced building energy use, benefits for mental health, flexible options for disabled people, parents, and more). He suggested the committee create a resolution with the intention of it encouraging supervisors on campus to consider remote-working as an option even beyond COVID-19.

**ACTION:** Formation of a sub-committee to contact Human Resources and discuss the possibility of developing a policy to encourage remote-working options for on-campus positions into the future. Members include Dustin Stephany, John Duncan, and Wilcley Lima.

**Ravish Paul** shared that his group has been steadily working through on-campus buildings to change controls to be appropriate for current building occupation patterns.

**Lauren Berkow** shared how the Shands community has been repurposing blue wrap (sani-cloth) in an effort to be economical with supplies. This could have sustainability impacts in terms of waste reduction.

**Mehmet Genc** shared with the group that within his circle in the health community, there has been a shift towards tele-medicine (using videoconferencing in lieu of in-person visits). Although this has its limitations, it is being encouraged now due to COVID-19 and there could be potential benefits to continuing encouraging tele-medicine in a limited capacity moving forward. **Ariel Pomputius** noted that insurance companies are often barriers for increasing tele-medicine practices. **Matt Williams** suggested compiling a list of benefits of tele-medicine as a first step.

There were several mentions of local groups supporting community resource sharing such as Working Food, the Grove Street Farmer's Market, the Next Door App, various social media groups for mutual aid, and the Community Weatherization Coalition.

**Dustin Stephany** discussed struggles his group had noticed in maintaining a healthy work-life balance when the physical spaces for working is also one's home.

## **EXISTING BUSINESS**

There were no reports from the Glitter Sub-Committee and no action on other items due to the abrupt closure of the university in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. All items will be forwarded to the first meeting of the Fall semester.

## **ROUNDTABLE UPDATE**

- Collection Day will not be happening, but the Office of Sustainability is still exploring ways that they can provide access to resources and information regarding proper disposal of waste.
- Champions for Change will be postponed indefinitely with digital certificates sent out to the winners in the meantime. Eventually, there will be an in-person event to celebrate the winners.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn by Lauren Berkow, seconded by Ariel Pomputius. Meeting was adjourned 1:42 PM.