

## UF Sustainability Committee – Minutes

12/15/2022, 12:30-2:30pm

Virtual Zoom meeting

### **Attendance**

**Members:** Ariel Pomputius, Meredith Beaupre, Jeff Boissoneault, Angie Brown, Jodi Chase, John Duncan, Hélène Huet, Elizabeth McAlister, Jessica-Jean Stonecipher, Matt Williams, Stephan Willias, Jessica Sheffield, Mariela Pajuelo, Sidney Ruedas

**Excused:** Sofia Buonanno, Leslie Thiel, Flora Iff-Noel

**Absent:** Nancy Clark

**Guests/Non-Members:** Liz Storn, Kaylee August

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by **Ariel Pomputius**, chair.

### *Approval of Minutes*

- **Meredith Beaupre** moved to approve the minutes from November 17, 2022. The motion was seconded by **Jodi Chase**.

### **Old Business**

#### *Collaboration with Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee (PATAC)*

**Ariel** updated the committee on her conversation with the PATAC and found that the committee's focus was on the Campus Master Plan. She updated the committee on the availability of hybrid, carpool, and daily passes. The PATAC committee is also working on additional covered bike parking. A new transit study is forthcoming and the results of the study are expected from the consultant within the next six months. **Ariel** had questions regarding participation of the campus community - staff, faculty, and students - in the transit study. **Ariel** updated the committee on the restricted zones within the campus core being reinstated. **Ariel** struggled to find concrete collaboration with the PATAC from the discussion and asked how the Sustainability Committee could spread the word about the sustainable transportation resources.

**Stephan** said the cost for daily passes was high and could create barriers instead of incentivizing sustainable transportation options.

**Matt** asked the committee about the best time and place to receive information on parking and transportation? What information would they need to make better transit decisions? **Jessica-Jean** said that renewal times are a great time to start the conversation about needs and different kinds of passes. That could remind the campus community about the free bike passes and credits at local bike shops if a GatorOne is shown. **Ariel** mentioned that this information is shared during employee orientation but can get lost in all the information shared. Additionally, she said that sharing before the fall semester could serve as a good reminder. **Angie** said that the campus website for new faculty and employee orientation was approved to add information about sustainability. Additionally, a 90-day post on-boarding email campaign could remind employees of sustainability information. Think about adding sustainable transportation information to the College of Medicine pre-boarding process. **Matt** mentioned discussing

with department chairs and faculty hiring boards about providing sustainable transportation information during the hiring process.

**Izzy** said she would like to have a map with travel times and transit options for our new hires to utilize when making housing and transit decisions. **Matt** said that Scott Washburn is a transportation engineer and could be a person to collaborate with to fill campus transit and sustainable transit option gaps. He also mentioned the importance of creating a running list of student capstone projects as a part of campus as a living lab data collection. **Jessica-Jean** supported Matt's idea and added that a Google map with colored zones showing different ranges of travel times would be helpful. **Matt** said the geomatics students could create a heat map and updated the committee on Thomas Hawkins growing masters program in the College of Design, Construction and Planning.

**Jessica-Jean** mentioned working with health insurance providers to support health benefits of biking to campus. **Angie** said that we are beholden to the state benefits programs in Florida and aren't allowed to provide kickbacks. However, we could incentivise outside of the healthcare benefits.

**Jessica-Jean** brought up the use of free showers to incentivize biking to campus. **Matt, John, and Ariel** mentioned that there are a number of showers but would take some planning for the campus community to utilize. **Ariel** said that Jacob Adams told her showers are not shared on the campus map due to safety concerns.

**Mariela** mentioned a bike to campus day. **Matt** said that the campaigns are made for the campuses in the northeastern US and are scheduled during the heat of the summer for Florida. **Matt** said these programs do not reach a large number of new bike commuters but support summer commuters who already do so. **Matt** said that the UF Bikes team works with new bike commuters to help reduce barriers. **Angie** mentioned creating a parking lot only for bike commuters where they could park and ride. **Matt** said that discussions were had but was not sure if the discussion was still going on regarding Angie's idea. **Meredith** brought up bike security as a barrier to biking on campus. **Ariel** said that warnings were issued about e-bike, scooter, and bike theft on campus.

**Stephan** supported the idea of making the campus community ineligible for parking if they bike to campus with the option to have a parking pass for one semester.

#### *Central Energy plant*

**Matt** said the deadline to submit bids was December 9th and hoped to have an update for the committee at the end of January or early February. **Ariel** asked about the new name for the plant and **Matt** said the new name would focus on the thermal nature of the plant. **Ariel** said that the Infrastructure Council wanted Ariel and Matt to present on the plant at one of the council meetings.

#### **Office of Sustainability Updates**

**Liz** reminded the committee about the Champions for Change Award in April. She said that application submissions will start in January. **Matt** opened up the discussion for suggestions to modify the Champions for Change Award. **Hélène** mentioned to the welfare council that more service awards are needed. **Ariel** said she would pass that on to the committee on committees. **Angie** said the core values committee might be able to add more service awards.

**Kaylee** updated the committee on the Conservation Area Land Management Plan Update. She said the steering committee completed their working sessions on the site-specific management plans and are finalizing their deliverables for approval by the committees and upper level administrators.

**Matt** said that UF will sponsor the Second Nature Climate Leadership Summit and recommended the committee members attend virtual if possible. He said that registration fees would not be covered by the Office of Sustainability.

**Izzy** mentioned the Facilities Services Christmas Parade this Monday (12/19) at 9 AM.

### **Roundtable updates**

**Hélène** gave an update on the Welfare Council. She shared that the Welfare Council is looking to push paid parental and medical leave from 8 to 12 weeks. She spoke about the barriers to making changes across campus because of budget constraints and her concern/frustration with passing resolutions in the committees and having nothing done to address the resolution. **Ariel** responded by suggesting incentivizing more sustainable transit options for faculty and staff to the Welfare Council. **Hélène** said that the Welfare Council mostly focuses on faculty but would be open to discussing this further.

**Jodi** mentioned that Business Services will do mobile credentials instead of physical GatorOne cards in May. Additionally, plastic cards will continue to work.

**Izzy** said she will be leaving the committee and UF in January because of a new job opportunity.

**Ariel** said she will be giving an update to the committee on committees and will ask where the committee's resolution sits.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Jeff** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:39 pm. **Izzy** seconded the motion.