

UNF Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2021

Call to Order

A meeting of the UNF Sustainability Committee was held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Dr. Wallace Harris, Chairman.

Attendees

Dr. Wallace Harris (Chair), Physical Facilities
Kevin Anderson, Ogier Gardens
Dylan Charles, Undergraduate Studies
Dr. Joshua Gellers, Political Science Faculty
Joseph Lachina, Chartwells
Samantha Lento, Housing

Jordan Maiden, Energy Coordinator, PHYSFAC
Nathaniel Rodefer, Student Government
William Smith, Sawmill Slough Preserve Curator
Vince Smyth, VP A&F
James Taylor, Environmental Center Coordinator
Dr. Heather Truelove, Psychology Faculty

Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes from the February 11, 2021 meeting were approved.

Agenda

Membership Update – No membership update. Dr. Harris will contact VP of Media Relations regarding designating/volunteer someone to sit on the Sustainability Committee.

Campus LED Retrofit Update – Dr. Harris updated the committee, that there 5 large buildings left to complete campus LED conversion. Physical Facilities anticipate being done with LED on campus within the next 2 years.

Subcommittee Updates

Operations and Logistics – Amy Lehnhoff - No Update.

Education and Research – Dr. Joshua Gellers

1. City of Jacksonville special committee on resiliency recently wrapped up yearlong efforts to address resiliency. Their final report was not only in part put together by a former UNF student and 2 UNF professors had their work mentioned, Dr. Gellers and Dr. Adam Rosenblatt in biology department.
2. On the student side, there is an event on Friday, April 9, 2021 (10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.), Environmental Center Leadership Program Spring Symposium, students are working on projects as part of their leadership program. Free virtual event.

Community Outreach and Student Experience – Nathaniel Rodefer – No Update.

Sawmill Slough Preserve – William Smith

Physical Facilities has a couple of projects going on within the Sawmill Slough to include mowing and cutting back on some trails. A lot of people are getting out enjoying the and using Sawmill Slough. We have an area within the Sawmill Slough, not within the walkable area. An invasive plant has been found in the area behind Parking Lot 44 and UNF Drive. Curator indicated that the only way to get rid of the invasive plant was to hand pull it and bag it up. There is a wait period before you can get rid of it because it produces red

berries that everywhere they drop each berry contain 5 to 10 seeds. Wherever they drop, 5 to 6 plants pop up. The staff is trying to contain the area.

Landscape and Grounds, working on fertilizer and pesticide reduction. Performing water samples for what goes off the campus, would like to do samples of water coming onto campus. We're in the process of getting ready to start planting floating islands in the ponds. It's like a sponge base that floats, the root system hang down. This will help filtrate the nutrients out of the water.

Member Updates:

Dr. Wallace Harris – with new water system metering program we can quickly find leaks, leaking shower heads, toilets running, drain and trap primers. We're going to have a lot of opportunity for water savings cost to be very sustainable with the program running. We would benefit with a program with students' participation in reporting water leaks/issues in their building. If we offer incentives for students to report leaks would help with water reduction thus savings cost. Thinking of a 2-tier approach, if a leak is reported we can project out how much it would have cost had the leak not been reported. If a student report through work order system and it's legitimate, they would receive an incentive, example \$10.00 gift card. In residence halls the students will have to be the one to report it since residence hall maintenance staff does not go into the room daily. The water bill is paid through E&G, that money is a specific color of money. Any savings on water could not fund pizza parties or gift card incentives. Those funds are used for paying for roofs on buildings and major repairs because it's not being funded by the state. Overall deferred maintenance for the university is approximately \$70 million dollars. I recommend that Jordan, Samantha, and myself get together to discuss further. Discussed the recommendation for green path to campus list that was emailed to committee. Those suggested items were received from committee members. I will compile a revised list and discuss at next meeting.

Kevin Anderson – entire budget for staffing is \$25,000 for the Gardens, budget for materials were cut this year. Recently received notification of receipt of Grant from the Cumber Family Foundation. We're going to start picking up pre-consumer waste around campus. Post-consumer waste gets a little messier with issues regarding contamination, would like a different funding stream. Sustainability Week, March 22nd.

Samantha Lento – prior to Covid-19 shutdown, Spring 2020 had started a program to test pilot. Would like to get a better base line in the Fall. This year is not a good year due to a lot of vacancies in buildings. No limit on the amount of hot water in residence housing except for the Village and Flats because they have their own individual water heaters.

Jordan Maiden – looking at the data now, the most important component would be the education and teaching students what to look for.

Vince Smyth – hesitate to hand people money as a reward. The Pepsi Fund would probably be able to fund \$10.00 gift cards. There is a lot in the fund, concerned that it could get expensive over a period. One caution is the Pepsi contract ends June 2022 and we don't know what we will have going forward. We could stop the program if there's no funding for it.

Dr. Heather Truelove – inquired if the water saving money could be used like the Pepsi funds to continue an incentive program. Also suggested to Sam Lento if prompts or reminders could be placed on bathroom mirrors, refrigerators, or doors with instruction on how to report a water problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.