

Library Environmental Committee Minutes – November 27, 2012

Present: Hsiang-Ping Cha, Susan Kendall (chair), Andrea Kepsel (recorder), Terry Link, Elida Marti, Kriss Ostrom, Stephanie Perentesis, Aaron Tomak

1. Spring LEC events planning are due to Holly by December 3

a. The Beal tours are being held April 18 (to coordinate with Science Festival) and May 16.

b. There will be a brownbag with Dr. Susan Selke on Wednesday, February 13, at 12:00pm. The topic is “Rethinking the Package – Sustainability and Packaging Trends”

c. Earth Day events

i. Terry’s son Noah owns and manages an urban farm in Detroit, Food Field. His business partner, Alex Bryan, is local and may be able to talk to our group about both their urban incubator farm and the food bank. Kriss will contact Alex and see if he is interested.

ii. We are signed up to do an exhibit in the spring, around the time of Earth Day. Stephanie suggested the theme of urban farming. Can decide closer to the time if somebody is available to put exhibit up.

iii. Not sure if Heidi or someone else is willing to do the Earth Day/Recycling game.

d. Other ideas

i. Heidi previously sent an email about inviting people from MSU Recycling and Surplus for an LEC brownbag.

ii. Kriss suggested having Terry Link discuss the East Lansing Food Co-Op (ELFCO) and their implementation of a new transformative sustainability model. They are measuring and evaluating energy usage, food sourcing, waste, employee treatment, etc. as part of the implementation. They have also been selected by Consumers Energy to be part of the Experimental Advanced Renewables Program. As part of the program they will be installing solar panels on the roof, and energy collected will be bought by Consumers.

iii. Terry also suggested Laura DeLind and Linda Anderson, founders of the local Urbandale Farm, to discuss urban ag sometime in the spring. He recommended early March since spring is their busiest time.

2. New employee training from Nov 8 report (Aaron and Hsiang Ping)

a. Training went very well. It took about 45 minutes, and 6 of the new employees attended. The session covered recycling in the building and a brief tour.

b. Aaron suggested not having these large group sessions in the future, especially since some of the attendees had been here for 6 months or so. Thinks individual training will be better.

c. Aaron and Hsiang Ping created a short, bullet-pointed list that can be made into a handout. This list can be used in individual meetings, which are expected to take about 15 minutes. Aaron will send the list to LEC.

i. Kriss will work to get new hire checklist language changed. Have them contact LEC group list

rather than individual members, then someone from LEC will set up time for training depending on their availability.

d. Business Library is taking part in pilot of zero waste project with small landfill wastebaskets. New business librarian, Emily, did not take part in orientation. Need to talk to her and see what she has learned so far and what more she needs to know.

i. Kriss has a small supply of the old model of mini-baskets used in the zero waste project and can give them to those that are interested.

3. Nov 8 LEC cosponsored event: “Dying to be Heard” report (Susan)

a. The event was successful. Susan was the only person from LEC to attend. Noticed that there seems to be less attendance at evening events than those held at noon.

4. Jim Hensley and Susie Garmo joined us to talk about retro-commissioning the building

a. The project is headed by Glenn Remington, Planning Inspector Analyst (PIA), and Catherine Huddy, Energy and Environment Analyst, both from Physical Plant. The library is one of the first buildings on campus to undergo this process.

b. Retro-commissioning starts with an energy audit of the building. The team goes through buildings identified as benefiting the most from energy savings, generally those with high use or the most square footage.

i. The audit looks at the building starting from the four corners and moving inward. It looks at how much energy is used by the building and for each task. It also involves inspection of the HVAC system from top to bottom, and how warm or cold air is delivered floor by floor. This includes looking at the special collections area, which can put unique demands on energy systems.

c. The engineering and architectural firm Fishbeck Thompson was brought in to analyze data and create a report with recommendations. The final report is over 300 pages long. Physical plant will then review the report with their own engineers and specialists. The report will be presented to the director as well as the Vice President of Financial Operations (VPFO), who will advise on funding opportunities.

i. Initially looking at making high impact changes, or those that will pay for themselves and save money over time.

ii. Lynda Boomer has a pool of cash that can be put towards energy reduction initiatives. The amount is not large, but is a possible source of funding.

iii. Stephanie suggested that there may be opportunities for donors to get involved. Some may want their donations to be used for greening of the library.

d. Right now waiting for the final report to understand what was measured and recommended, and to determine what changes to support. The report may include suggestions for changes the staff can make that will have high impact, which may impact how we do our work.

i. Not sure what level of input the library will have in what changes are made, but some level of involvement is expected.

ii. The report is not 'top secret' but some things, such as building plans, are limited in availability. LEC recommends full access to the report via the intranet for all library staff members that are interested.

e. After the report is released, the next steps are analysis and the implementation of what the energy audit suggests.

5. Old Business

a. The holiday party will be held on December 18th at 5:45pm. The location still needs to be determined, ideally one with vegetarian options and the ability to serve alcohol. Red Haven, a farm to table restaurant, was suggested.

6. Ecogram

a. Holiday environmental tips. Andrea will send the ecogram out. Suggestions for tips are needed.

7. There will be no meeting in December.