

Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Sustainability Committee  
10.20.23

Present: D. Alexander; R. Bair; J. Breeding; B. McElhone; K. Lewis; G. Pestun; N. Rickey; C. Schauer; T. Sypris

Absent: R. Brill; K. DeKam; H. Fish; K. Fuchs; R. Higginbotham; V. McCann; T. Shane

Notes from 6.15.23 were approved; motion by Bill; support from Nathan.

Dannie welcomed the group. Additionally, he thanked Rachel Bair for her leadership in leading the Summit Presentation effort as well as conducting the presentation. Appreciation was also extended to Nathan and Cynthia for information/data contributions to the power point. Dannie indicated the session was well attended with good discussion; feedback was also good.

- **Work Group Discussion**

- Focus areas for workgroups include
  - Internal Initiatives
  - Community Collaboration
  - Sustainability in the Classroom
- Members' workgroup participation was reviewed
  - No changes were made
- Each workgroup will meet separately and provide a report/update at the next Sustainability Committee Meeting for full group discussion

- **Planned Projects and Ideas**

- "Blight" pull; possibly a "contest" format
  - Cynthia Schauer recommended that Dave Lancaster be added to the committee due to his previous work and experience in setting up competition-type events
- Highway project
  - In discussion, Cynthia provided the following information
    - State
      - Identifies the location
      - Establishes the time parameters for the pick up
      - requires a commitment from the organization
    - Is a big commitment
    - Information can be found at:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/programs/highway-programs/roadside-property-management/adopt-a-highway>
  - Cynthia will provide additional information/contact point for the project

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- Composting at TTC
  - Compostable items must be kept separate from regular recyclables
    - Can be a fairly significant job separating
  - Recycling compostable materials must be done with My Green Michigan
  - Rachel will follow up w/My Green Michigan about the possibility of establishing a pick up at TTC
  - Bill stated that Lexi (KVM) coordinates isolating compostables
    - Has developed signage re: the need for separating
    - Nathan stated he transports the KVM compostables to the FIC/MJSCAH
- Messaging campaign
  - Consensus that messaging relative to initiatives, educational awareness, etc. Needs to be intentional and consistent college wide
    - Tom Hamman can assist in development
    - Mechanisms
      - New TV's
      - Newsletters
        - Consistent article re: sustainability college-wide measures/initiatives in place
      - Bill to follow up in ensuring messaging is incorporated into above avenues
    - Kevin Fuchs suggested incorporating sustainability messaging into college-wide signage efforts
      - Per Bill, the Innovation Gallery at KVM has an area relative to climate change
        - Consistently looks for travelling exhibits that address sustainability issues
        - Theo commented re: the wide variety of exhibits at KVM
      - Bill to follow up re: KVFocus+ including information re: sustainability-themed exhibits/events at KVM, including recent visit by EGLE staff relative to KVCC raingardens
  - New Recycle Bins
    - Will be in place by Thanksgiving
    - Greg to follow up w/Tom re: signage
      - Tom to follow up w/FIC and MJSCAH to ensure consistency in look and message
  - Recycling Events
    - Next event Fri, 10.19, 1-4, TTC
      - Will include electronics recycling
    - Include information re: what happens to items once picked up
  - Discussion re: students participation in making signs/other sustainability projects
    - Theo expressed concern in engaging students to work on various projects
      - Flyers/posters are a waste
      - Science/Social Science faculty could incorporate sustainability/recycling into curriculum

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- Create a faculty sustainability support group through faculty members of Sustainability Committee
  - Could increase student awareness of college- wide sustainability issues/activities
  - Incentivize by offering bonus points for student participation
- The meeting was adjourned to be sensitive to member's schedules
  - Community Engagement projects will be discussed at the next meeting, Friday, Jan 26, 10 a.m.