

Library Environmental Committee Minutes—June 27, 2017

Present: Eric Tans (chairing), Susan Kendall (minutes), Emilia Marcyk, Tim Kiser, Lisa Lorenzo, Stephanie Perentesis

1. Report from Jonah Magar on recycling issues (by email)

“I toured the next wave of Sustainability student staff through the library to show them where all the compost bins are located, so collection can continue without lapse through the transition. If you’re aware of any bins that are/aren’t well used, please let me know so we can move things if necessary.

I’d like to send Sustainability a list of all restrooms where we collect paper towel for compost. Here are the locations I know of:

- 4W just outside the cube farm
- 4W closer to Fine Arts
- GW? I remember there being paper towel in the big basement restroom, but is there also a towel compost bin?
- Which spots am I missing? I know of several staff restrooms with paper towel but no compost bin, but volume is probably too low to worry about these.

We also discussed glass recycling. Sustainability is retooling their bike/truck collection routes for efficiency, so there are lots of details in the air at this point. What is being considered—and I hope you’ll discuss—is an expansion of our current glass recycling program (i.e. Spartys only) to include staff areas and perhaps LIMITED public collection.

- Sustainability and I discussed placing a small glass-collection bin next to each non-restroom compost bin. However;
 - o Nobody is sure whose job it would be to dump these into a “central bin,” nor where a central bin would go (if moved up from the basement).
 - o “Central bin” locations in/near the loading dohat.ck are being considered; Garmo/Pettee will be consulted.
- The one public area to have glass collection would be the Cyber Café.
- Rollout would happen by the start of fall semester.”

2. **Glass recycling:** After reading Jonah’s report, the committee discussed that perhaps Sparty’s does not sell any items in glass bottles anymore and so there is less need for glass recycling. This would need to be confirmed by committee members.
3. **Interview:** Eric was interviewed by Liz Granger, a reporter for *American Libraries* magazine for an upcoming issue about libraries that have implemented successful sustainability measures. He discussed our committee and sent her the chapter about our history. The issue will come out this fall.
4. **Mixed paper recycling:** Eric reported that he had been called to look at the dumpsters in the basement. They are missing their signs for paper/mixed paper. Also, he found some items in

the paper recycling inside plastic bags. He also noted that there are plastic liner bags in the paper recycling bins on the first floor of the library near Sparty's.

It is unclear whether it is custodial staff or Sparty's staff that are putting plastic liners in the paper recycling bins. Next steps are that Eric will email Dave at MSU recycling to alert him. Stephanie Perentesis will ask around at Sparty's about to what extent they deal with the recycling.

5. **Event PR:** Susan talked with Katie Diamond following the last Beal tour. Katie is experimenting with targeted advertising through Facebook to people with special interests (gardening). There were 50 people at the last Beal tour, so this may be a promising avenue for promoting our events in the future.
6. **Queries from Library staff members:** The committee discussed the kinds of queries we receive from library staff members and our ability to address them. Here is what is on our page: "The work of the MSU Library Environmental Committee (LEC) focuses on library use of natural resources with an eye toward sustainability, while maintaining and improving our overall working and learning environment. The categories of resources include use of paper; printing and copier use; energy, lighting, PCs, heating, and cooling; cleaning supplies and chemicals; office supplies; recycling and waste reduction; parking and transportation; noise; and general design issues that have an ecological impact."

We agreed that we need to add a disclaimer to this to indicate that our committee can only focus on the ecological impact of products used in the library work environment but that we cannot address individual health concerns. Those should go through a supervisor to library human resources.

Susan will write up something to send to the committee for approval.

7. **Programming for the fall:** The committee brainstormed ideas for possible events. The deadline is August 4 to get things to Holly for PR. Ideas include:
 - Something combining botanical illustration (from Special Collections) with Peter Carrington's expertise? (we will ask Pat Olson about this possibility)
 - Invasive aquatic species with Leslie Kuhn moved from spring to fall/winter. We have no date set at this point.
 - Pat Sorrano from Fisheries and Wildlife Department is speaking at the Great Lakes Science Bootcamp. Since that will be for a lay audience, perhaps her talk could also be used for our series. Eric will explore this.
 - Wolfgang Bauer spoke at the bike commute breakfast about the central campus mobility plan. Would this be of interest?
 - Perhaps we could show a film. Example: *From Flint: Voices of a Poisoned City* is a streaming video we have with license.

Next meeting: Tuesday 11/25/15 – Chair: Susan Kendall, Recorder: Tim Kiser