

College of Staten Island Sustainability Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes - March 24, 2008

I. Call to order

Tom Tyburczy called to order the second meeting of the Sustainability Council at 9:30am in Building 1M, Room 203.

II. Roll call

The following members were present: Tom Tyburczy, Linda John, Bertram Ploog, Kelly Tatara, Ben Deangelis, Caitlyn Nichols, Jodi Merendino, Ed Chapman, Ira Persky, Alan Benimoff, Sandra LeBow, Donato DeSantis, Terry Mares, and Nisha S. Gilbert

III. Old Business

Tom, Ira, and Kelly attended the borough meetings and gained some insight on what our sister schools are doing. Kingsboro is very proactive and has been accomplishing numerous things, one of which is an annual "ecofestival." Tom received some great emails with different ideas on how CSI can do things a bit better. One was the amount of salt that was spread; in order to prevent ground erosion, millings were added to the side of the roads.

IV. New business

- a) Recycling has been getting better at CSI. The Council brainstormed about what else CSI can recycle (batteries, cell phones, glasses, household waste etc.). All members realize that they need to keep a look out for programs that the Council can adopt so that CSI can recycle/reuse these items.
- b) The Council wants to hold a fall festival to raise awareness about sustainability. Members need to try to come up with entertainment, speakers, handouts, etc. that can be utilized for this event. A date has not been decided yet and the Council also needs to come up with a name for the festival. Any idea name ideas can be sent to Kelly Tatara at tatara@mail.csi.cuny.edu.
- c) Greg and Ben are working on "Recyclemania." They are also looking for any other volunteers who would like to help with this campaign, which will launch in Jan 2009.
- d) The Council needs to get a Website going for its sustainability team. All members should look at sister schools for ideas, and any ideas should be sent to Terry at mares@mail.csi.cuny.edu. Terry will work with Linda to ensure that the site eventually is up and running. Council members will also consider logo ideas. One suggestion was to make this a contest for the students. If that is the case, a date needs to be set as well as contest rules. Otherwise the Council will have to come up with a logo.
- e) Some offices already have "green" projects underway. For example, in the Campus Center, Ira and Jodi have switched to biodegradable cups, cutlery, and plates. All of these projects will help us to reduce our carbon footprint; ensure that your office gets an accurate baseline of how your project is helping the environment.
- f) Tom is working with Michael Kress from IT to have each campus email have a message on the bottom that reads "Think Green before you print this." It was suggested that maybe messages (such as "Make sure that you print double-sided") could vary and rotate every quarter or month.
- g) Ira suggested composting as a future project. SI currently has enough acreage to do it. It was also suggested that waste be sent to Fresh Kills to be composted, and the College could use the composted material once the process is complete.
- h) Another suggestion for a future project was to make the retention pond by Building 1M into a catch basin to water the grass. With the high water table and the correct continuous system, the water could be reused over and over again. Porous sidewalks would also help with the irrigation system.

- i) Nisha suggested that B&G could put shrubs and plants by the sidewalks to reduce erosion.
- j) Council members will think of ways to incorporate sustainable items, such as mugs, into the CSI system. How can the College convince students to carry these reusable mugs? Maybe giving them a discounted drink?
- k) Nisha would like to see the TVs in the Campus Center show something a bit more educational, like quick sustainability messages. She will try to research on how this can be done, as the TVs are not programmed on campus.

V. Adjournment

In conclusion, please send any Website ideas to Terry (see above). The Council would like to have a Website draft by the next meeting. Keep your eyes open for any simple projects the Council can incorporate here to get the “sustainability” ball rolling. The Council will meet again in a couple of months—exact date to be decided. Tom Tyburczy adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.

Minutes submitted by: Kelly Tatara

Minutes approved by: Tom Tyburczy