Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2002


Committee action items in bold.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 23, 2001 at 12:00 noon 107C Osborne

Dr. Coull opened the meeting with a few announcements:

❖ The EAC will now be listed as an official University Committee, consisting of both official and affiliate members. Dr. Coull would like suggestions to fill open slots of unrepresented departments (for example, the College of Science and Mathematics). Submit names to Dr. Coull prior to the 10th of May.
❖ The recent edition of the Carolinian has three articles in it pertaining to environmental improvements on campus.
❖ The new bookstore manager, Mr. Caminsky, has sent out a letter asking for suggestions. EAC is responding to his request with a letter containing the following suggestions; provide recycled materials for sale in the bookstore (notebooks, envelopes, etc.), consider cutting back on flyer insert proliferation. Members were encouraged to contact him directly to reinforce these suggestions and add any personal thoughts.

Bicycles and Master Plan-
Derrick Huggins, Director of Vehicle Management & Parking Services, reported:

❖ We are hoping to get a federal grant to test two new fuels in our flex fuel vehicles:
  1. An E85 aboveground tank at the motor pool. E85 is 85% ethanol alcohol and 15% gasoline. (F.Y.I. DHEC is also installing an ethanol tank)
  2. Biodiesel (a mixture of vegetable oil and diesel). He would be interested in finding a class or student who could test and evaluate performance. (Editor’s note: Jamie Russell volunteered to find out the best contact, and has linked Dr. Moorehouse in Mechanical Engineering with Mr. Huggins.)
❖ We are moving forward with perimeter parking and improving the bus/shuttle system. We now have 4 of the 6 buses for which we are planning. We are also working with the city to allow students to buy a pass to ride USC shuttles and the Regional Transit Authority (formerly SCE&G) buses.
❖ The plan is for students to pay a fee of approximately $20 (this will be an access fee for all students), giving them unlimited transit on RTS. This money will be used to fund additional security call boxes, bike racks, possibly some on shuttle busses, and replacement busses.
Our shuttles currently handle about 400,000 passengers/year at a lower cost per person than many systems.
We are working with GIS to reevaluate our bike racks and shuttle routes.

Points raised during the discussion included the need for education, especially during freshman orientation, the interest in registering more bikes on campus to build a base of users,

Ben Coonrod, Campus Landscape Architect, reported
- Bicycle usage seems to be increasing on campus and the City of Columbia has expressed interest in bike planning as a part of streetscape projects.
- There are legal issues to be addressed when integrating bikes and pedestrians on blocks and bikes and cars on streets.
- We are hoping to integrate bike issues into the Campus Master Plan. Coming up, we are looking at what we can do in the near future to adapt to what is already being done.

Current policy calls for limiting gasoline powered vehicles in the central portion of the campus. Several units are hoping to purchase electric vehicles, and all have been looking in to measures that must be taken in order to accommodate routine maintenance, waste collection, etc. while eliminating the use of gasoline powered vehicles.

**Information Sharing Discussion:**
Members acknowledged the need for a central repository of information and the need to avoid duplicating efforts. During a wide-ranging discussion regarding the best way to accomplish this, three distinct needs emerged:

1. An information-sharing mechanism that would allow anyone on campus to share information about what his/her unit was doing, capture “good news” and create a record to document progress (particularly useful for some grant purposes, such as Clean Cities.)
2. A shared GIS-based campus map that would allow personnel in various units to collect data of use to them, as well as allow for more efficient coordination among units, while avoiding duplication.
3. Tools (for lack of a better word) to allow for decision-making on a specific problem/project (similar to that developed by Chris Howard for a previous exercise, attached) as well as to aid in strategic planning.

Points raised during the discussion included the need to get information from the registrar’s Office about class enrollments and location, as well as commuter pathways; the need for SOE to increase visibility on campus by partnering with departments on specific projects and perhaps assisting in strategic planning efforts; and the realization that we were grappling with something that may mean different things to different people. Accordingly, the following actions were agreed to:
1. Jim Demarest will prepare a draft of his vision of “it” by May 1. This will be shared with the rest of the committee on the theory that it is easier to work from a “straw man” than from scratch.

2. Derrick, Chris and Kim will meet to develop a straw man version of “it” as Derrick and Chris envision it.

3. With luck, the two versions will be compatible, meet all needs, and will be ready to share with others in time for the May 23 meeting. At that point, we will, presumably, have a better sense of our needs and can meet with Dave Cowan on GIS products.

EPA Waste Wise Program-
The Committee voted unanimously to support Waste Management’s plan to join the EPA Waste Wise Program. As Laura Pergolizzi pointed out, Waste Wise is a free, voluntary partnership to help organizations reduce waste by setting goals and monitoring progress. The benefits are obvious; increased momentum for recycling and waste management program, recognition, and awards. Laura shared a summary of the program and proposed goals. If you have any questions or suggestions contact Laura by e-mail.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Sara Pendarvis