

Green Team Meeting Minutes – Friday, April 5, 2013

Present: Kiersten, Yosi, Shanna, Sally, Lisa, Candace, Rae, Liz, Katie

- **FaceBook Page was created! Utmsi Green-team. Everyone, be our friend!**
- **Whooping Crane Festival Recycling Challenge**
 - Julie Findley suggested doing a joint booth next year with the KPAB (Keep Port Aransas Beautiful) people.
 - Kiersten will contact Julie to see what she thinks.
 - Rae also mentioned that the Planetears from Port Aransas High School might be a good group to get involved with.
 - We should discuss what we could do to target a wider array of people.
 - Sally is going to do a survey to see what was successful and what was not.
 - Big theme was the fact that hardly anyone knew that Port Aransas recycles!?!?
- **Steve Lanoux (a councilman of Port Aransas) came to the Skip the Plastics talk.**
 - He wants the store owners and managers to make the change on their own, but realizes that a city ordinance is probably necessary.
 - He also proposed compostable bags.
- **Green Team ordered reusable bags to sell for \$5.00, and they should be here by Earth Day Bay Day.**
 - Everyone, Colleen needs volunteers to man the booth and sell Mission-Aransas NERR t-shirts for Saturday!!!
- **Kiersten attended the Trash Summit in Corpus on April 4.**
 - Republic Services was there and mentioned that when the larger blue bins were introduced, recycling increased by 3-5%. Additionally, the frequency of trash pick-up per week went from 2 times to 1 time.
 - Maybe we should present this to the city council so they see that it is beneficial.
 - Sally suggested that we (UTMSI Green Team) host a Trash Summit!!
 - Candace said that postcards should be sent out to zip code 78373 – this could be to advertise for the Trash Summit and/or to tell every resident of Port Aransas that there is recycling in this city. Kiersten said that the city could do that and pay for it.
 - Rae suggested that an article be written in the South Jetty.
 - Candace should ask Republic Services if they would come to our Trash Summit.
- **Tammy Mooney made us a new logo!!!**
 - Sally is going to check the budget to see if we can afford to buy stickers.
- **Oysterrecycling.org was on April 6.**
- **April 13 – Earth Day Bay Day. Again, everyone, Colleen needs volunteers!!! Colleen.mccue@utexas.edu**
- **April 20 – Adopt-a-Beach Cleanup – meet at Avenue G at 8:30 a.m.**
 - Sally will invite the Architectural School students who will be here that weekend.
- **May 11 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Glass Recycling**
 - Someone needs to volunteer to do this.
- **Change of meeting day and month**
 - We voted to change the meeting times to the first Wednesday of the odd months (January, March, **May 1st**, July 3rd, September 4th, November 6th)
- **Movies – Suggested that Bag*It be played at the Bay Education Center.**

- **Sally** will ask Kristin to ask the Rockport Water Quality Committee if and when that would work. Rae also mentioned that there is the Clean Marina group in Rockport that we could talk to (they want to decrease the plastic bags).
- **Challenge Ideas.**
 - Katie suggested that people bring in their electrical bill and show decreased usage over a period of time (shown by percentage decrease, not kWh). – Whoever reduces the most, wins the prize.
 - How many? Every month? Quarter?
 - Suggestion for small prize every quarter year and a large prize for the person who wins annually.
 - This would require someone sending reminders and giving pointers.
 - This would work if people did not move from their current home within the year.
 - Green Lab Initiative – goes through UT Austin, but we have not heard anything in a while.
 - Colleen suggested the idea of a competition within the UTMSI.
 - This could be done between buildings if they are on a separate grid.
 - This could be done between people of MSI – custodial, maintenance, grounds crew, ERC people, admin, main lab people, etc. etc. etc.
 - We would probably need to talk to Steve and Fiscal since they see all of the numbers.
 - **Everyone**: It was suggested that before we do all of this, we need to just go talk to them.... Bombard them on their breaks... 😊
- **Fundraising.**
 - We are running out of money and need to probably do a fundraiser soon. **Everyone** needs to be thinking about what they could donate!! This could happen in late May or early June... Probably at The Gaff again.
 - We still have a lot of snacks. **Lisa** is going to ask if we can sell ours while GSA is restocking.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, May 1st, in the ERC Conference Room