

# UTMSI Green Team Meeting – July 9, 2014

## 6:00 p.m. POOL PARTY

**Present:** Katie Swanson (Pres.), Colleen McCue, Lisa Havel, Candace Peyton (Sec.), Tracy Harvey (VP), Meredith Evans\* (new Treas.), Julie Findley (KPAB rep), Xana Hermosilla\*, Stephanie Smith, Rae Mooney, Carrie Harris\*, Christina Bonsell\*

- Introductions
  - 4 new members present (marked at top by \*)
- Skip the Plastic (STP) Port Aransas – update from Rae + others
  - Rae is the STP rep/chair.
    - **ACTION: *Everyone*: Let Rae know whether or not you would like to be on the STP email listserv.**
  - **Corpus Christi (CC)** has been trying to ban plastic bags for 4 years now. Surfrider Foundation helped form the Skip the Plastic group. This past spring (2014), CC held the vote to ban single-use plastic bags; it ended up in a 4 to 4 tie. The 5<sup>th</sup> vote that would have made it pass was not placed because Councilwomen Priscilla Leal had a stroke the month before and was not available to add her vote.
  - Port A was initially waiting to see if it passed in CC before making any moves.
  - Colleen McCue, chair of the **Green Team Film Series**, arranged for us to show *Bag It*, and invited Councilman Steve Lanoux, Mayor Keith McMillan, and City Manager Dave Parsons, along with representatives from Republic Services (trash/recycling company). The movie was a great hit. The guest speaker was Neil McQueen (Surfrider and STP). Neil discussed what was happening and what had happened in CC. Mayor McMullin announced that he thought this was something that Port A should take on. The audience members discussed forming a sub-group of STP: STP-Port Aransas. [Side note: Skip the Plastic- Rockport has also been formed.] **ACTION: *Newbies*, go check *Bag It* out from the MSI library and have a movie night.**
  - **City Council meetings:** At the April meeting, banning of plastic bags was made an agenda item. Skip the Plastic PA showed up in great numbers. There were a handful of people who opposed. STP-PA showed up again at the May and June meetings, and was told that banning of bags would be added to the July Goals Workshop agenda (7/9/2014). STP-PA again showed up to the workshop in great numbers!! Great job!! There is one council member who seems opposed to the ban, but STP-PA will continue to educate people throughout the next couple of months. The City announced that a draft ordinance would be written for the September 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. **ACTION: *EVERYONE*, WE SHOULD ALL PLAN ON BEING THERE THAT DAY!!**
  - STP-PA has canvas STP tote bags for sale. **ACTION: *Everyone*, let Rae know if you want a bag and she will tell you where to get one.**
  - Keep Port Aransas Beautiful (KPAB) has been applying for grants to buy bins and paint, etc., since there are not enough trash cans along the city streets of Port Aransas.
    - The Green Team will lend a hand painting or supervising kids that are painting the bins when needed.

- Fundraisers
  - Rae is the fundraising chair.
  - In September: we will start discussing hosting another silent auction fundraiser to raise funds for the Gr. Team
    - Want to host in the winter (Jan/Feb) to hit up Winter Texans
  - Look into encouraging the Visitor Center to take part in the Port A Shop-Around and set up a table of Green Team stuff to sell in the VC.
    - STP Tote bags, T-shirts, koozies?
  - Julie mentioned that Chilla's is wanting to donate something next time we are looking for donations
  - We need new fundraising ideas! **ACTION: Everyone, let Katie know of any ideas or think of some things and bring it up at the next green team meeting.**
    - Fundraiser for a cause.
  
- Wildlife Water Wise Garden
  - Katie wrote a Green Fee Grant and it was funded – Water-Wise Wildlife Garden. It will transform the lawn that is in between Dorm D and the Visitor Center (VC) and the Main Lab Building. Half will remain grass, and the other half will be transformed into trails and xeroscape.
  - Green Team will help with the planting and some of the physical labor, so be looking for an email this fall.
  - Since the meeting: Katie has received confirmation that the change of plans has been approved. Moving forward with WWWG should begin shortly.
  
- Film Series
  - Colleen is the Film Series Chair
  - See Skip The Plastic Update for further updates on this section.
  - Colleen is now in charge of the afternoon movies at UTMSI and Carolyn (Carolyn Rose is her boss, and the Education Coordinator of the Mission-Aransas Reserve) wants it to be like the Green Team Film Series, where they show a movie and then have a guest speaker to lead a discussion afterwards. There are a lot of movies available, included nature-themed and conservation/stewardship-themed. Colleen is wondering if the Green Team would like to sponsor some of the movies.
  - Katie mentioned that it would be a good opportunity to have an impact on families who visit in the summer months.
  - Candace mentioned having each month dedicated to a different theme.
  - Liz DeHart may have A LOT of movies for us to choose from with the correct licensing associated.
  - We have a shorter *Bag It* movie that would work well for this.
  - Colleen is thinking movies once a week, year round, and Green Team could sponsor the summer months in order to have an impact on families, which we otherwise do not really interact with.
  - **ACTION: Colleen will create a google doc with the movies that we have.**
  - **ACTION: Everyone add to the google doc suggestions of what other movies would be good.**
  - **ACTION: Christina, talk to Liz and see if these movies are available in Austin or if we can buy them (Colleen has a budget to work with).**

- Glass and other Recycling Issues
  - Katie is the recycling chair.
  - Glass recycling is done every 3 months in CC, so you have to save your glass and then bring it to the bottom of the Estuarine Research Center (ERC) the week before the collection date.
  - Every time someone different volunteers. You can take a UT Vehicle (truck), if you do not want to use your own, and load up the glass and take it to the designated location.
  - The next date is Saturday, September 13, in North Padre.
  - **ACTION: Someone, let Katie know if you would like to volunteer to take the glass on 9/13/2014 to North Padre.**
  - Students asked if MSI could have a place to store the glass. It was mentioned that in past experiences there were ant/bug problems when people would not rinse items out. The new students are encouraged to bring it up with admin/Bob/Steve, and maybe they will give you a place to store glass. **ACTION: New Students, ask about glass recycling storage, possibly in the warehouse.**
  
- Business Center- Recycling
  - Colleen spoke with Andrea at the Port Aransas Business Center (next door to Cancun Mexican Restaurant) and she said that she will happily accept the University's packing material (peanuts, bubble wrap, paper, etc.).
  - We should send out an MSI-ALL email to let people know about it.
  - Meredith volunteered to be in charge of this.
  - **ACTION: Meredith, get in touch with Dana Schimcek in receiving, and see if we can work something out to store used packing material there before transporting it to the business center. Also check with Andrea on what exactly she will accept (old boxes, peanuts, Styrofoam boxes).**
  
- Jetty Cleanup
  - Amanda is the chair of the Jetty Cleanups.
  - Last cleanup was really quick because the UT Summer Science groups had just picked up trash there.
  - If that happens again, we should move the location to somewhere else (Ex. closer to the beach and water line on the jetties gets very trashy, somewhere along the beach dunes).
  - **ACTION: Amanda, come up with the date for the next jetty clean-up, and scope out area prior to clean-up. This will be a September agenda item.**
  
- Bikes
  - John Mohan is the Bike Chair
  - There are currently 1-2 bikes left to rent.
  - John would like more. Maybe at the Port Aransas Police Department (PAPD) auction we could get them.
  - **ACTION: Everyone, keep calling PAPD and checking the website to see when the next auction is, and let Katie (President) and Meredith (Treasurer) know what you find out.**
  - Rae mentioned that there are a lot of bikes in the warehouse that seem to belong to no one. **ACTION: Rae and John, check the warehouse bikes and make sure those are not ours.**

- To rent a bike, it is a \$20 deposit, and then \$10 per semester. You are in charge of your own repairs. If you return the bike in just as good of shape, then you get your deposit back when you leave. Some of the students mentioned that they did not know this.
- OFF-TOPIC – Austin Guidebook
  - Lisa mentioned the Austin Guidebook for students and suggested that the new students make a Port Aransas Guidebook.
  - There are lots of things that students coming from Austin do not realize.
  - Have the Green Team as a section or chapter.
  - Some things that should be included:
    - That the Green Team exists (when they meeting, where they meet, website address, recycling situation on campus, what we do- Jetty clean ups)
    - Green Team rents bikes
    - Produce box gets delivered every other week
    - Some restaurants are better than others
    - Lots of fun bars to go to
    - There are sports to play in throughout the week, etc...
  - The new students should get together and make one.
  - Xana volunteered to write the Green Team chapter. **ACTION: New students, write a Port A Guidebook and Xana will write the Green Team Chapter.**
- Green Team Website
  - Rae is the website chair.
  - Check it out! [www.utmsi.utexas.edu/greenteam](http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu/greenteam)
  - We should be recording how many people view it/duration of visit, etc... Stephanie volunteered.
  - **ACTION: Stephanie, work with Rae on the google analytics for Green Team website.**
  - Since the meeting Rae came up with a new idea: remove some of the “more general” info from the website, and replace with MSI-specific info- Where we meet, recycling center (where and what is recycled).
- Recruitment
  - Candace is the recruitment chair.
  - **ACTION: Everyone, let Candace know of other ways to get people (mostly the boys in your cohort) to attend these meetings....**
  - Which are usually the **2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every odd month**, at noon in the ERC, but are subject to change... we could try another pool party, and have it be on a different day of the week so it doesn’t conflict with Wednesday night soccer.
- Social Media/PR
  - Candace is the social media chair.
  - **Utmsi Green-Team** is the name on FaceBook. It is set up as a person, not a business. **ACTION: Everyone, “friend” Utmsi Green-Team!!**
  - Colleen suggested that Sally (Sally Palmer is the Communications Coordinator of UTMSI) do a story about the Green Team for her monthly spotlights. **ACTION: Katie, mention to Sally about her writing something about the Green Team.**
  - **Update: mentioned to Sally about writing a blurb about Gr. Tm in the monthly newsletter, she said it was a good idea, and she would look into it.**

- Green Team Challenge
  - Katie is the challenge chair
  - Every three months, names will be put into a drawing for every 15 times you carpool or bike or walk to work. At the end of the three months, 4 names will be drawn.
  - It was voted that the quarterly prizes would be ~\$5.00 and could be STP bags or gift from Visitor Center. The grand prize will be \$25.00 to the VC (unless we get the prize donated, as suggested by Meredith).
  - **This quarter the winners were – Matt Khosh, Nathan McTigue, Hernando Bacosa, and Yesid Lozano. YAY! Congrats!!**
  
- New Business – New T-shirt??
  - It was suggested that the t-shirts be organic cotton like the last time (Bike Gang T-Shirts), which were fitted and nice.
  - This time we should buy men’s and women’s shirts.
  - We should put our logo (compliments of Tammy McPhee, Rae’s mom) on a t-shirt.
  - Where should we get it from?
    - Candace has a connection at T-Shirt Gallery and Sports in Corpus Christi.
    - Meredith mentioned that her mom does this kind of stuff too.
    - Rae mentioned asking Weldon (Surfrider member and STP member), who makes shirts for his company at Saltline Store in Port A.
    - **ACTION: Candace, Rae, and Meredith, get together to discuss which way we should go with getting new T-shirts.**
  
- New Business – City-Wide Cork Recycling
  - This was something that we thought to do a long time ago... This could be a new project idea, but we just decided to add a different new recycling project (the packing material to the Business Center).
  - Rae mentioned that instead of the whole town, we could just start with 3 or 4 restaurants that sell a lot of wine (Venetian Hot Plate, The Pelican Club, etc.).
  - This will be a September agenda item.
  - FYI, we also recycle batteries. You can put them in the bin under the stairs next to admin.
  - We also recycle printer cartridges (also under stairs next to admin). Andrew at the ARK takes them and they get money for them. **ACTION: Katie, get in touch with Andrew and take the cartridges over to the ARK.**
  
- New Business – Treasurer
  - Green Team Account = \$991.20
  - Petty Cash Box = \$105.45
  - **Total = \$1,096.65**
  - Sally Palmer resigned as our Treasurer.
  - We need a new one.
  - **Meredith volunteered. Yay! ACTION: Katie, give Meredith the cash box and a run down of the Treasurer’s duties.**
  
- New Business – Environmental Hero Chair
  - Sally Palmer resigned as our Environmental Hero Chair.
  - We need a new one.

- **Stephanie Smith volunteered. Yay!**
  - Once a year, the Green Team sends out an email to MSI-ALL calling for nominations for an Environmental Hero. They need to say something about why they are nominating that person. Then Stephanie will put the nomination list together and we will vote on someone. Since we missed the Hurricane Meeting, we can present this year's award at the Christmas Party.
  - This can be an agenda item for September's Green Team meeting- will announce winner at UTMSI's Christmas Party.
  - **ACTION: Rae- send Stephanie an old nomination document from Sally. If you don't have one, ask Sally to send it.**
- New Business – Bike Pub Crawl
    - OOPS! This was supposed to happen in June, but we just didn't get it together. We are now thinking of doing it in October.
    - This will be a September meeting agenda item.