



The **UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA**
Environmental Concerns Committee

Minutes

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE MEETING

Call To Order

A meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee was held in Gould Hall on April 5th, 2018. It began at 9:03 AM and was presided by Burr Millsap, with Alex Nongard as secretary.

Attendees

Voting Members in Attendance: Alex Nongard, Sara Mata, Suchi Bhattacharjee, Michelle Burke

Ex-Officio Members in Attendance: George Ahmadi, Jeremi Wright, Dave Hambright, Burr Millsap, Brian Holderread, Sarah Ballew, Jason Hancock, Daniel Phoenix, Kolt Vaughn, Timothy Crisp, Kris Glen, George Ahmadi

Agenda Items

I. Introduction

Burr: For those of you who missed last month's meeting, we took a comprehensive tour of Housing and Food's sustainability services, from the Freight Farm that produces all the Couch cafeteria greens to the offices that manage it. Each month we are trying to highlight some portion of the University's sustainability services. Joining us today is Kris Glenn of Parking Services, who is relatively new, and will be telling us about Parking Services' sustainability goals.

II. Parking Services

Kris: Thank you. With me is Tim Crisp, an MPA student who works for me and has helped me get the Crimson Cruisers bike share program going. Yesterday was the 1 year anniversary of the program, and we've got some birthday statistics for you. Tim will give a presentation about the program.

More generally when it comes to sustainability, my favorite contribution to sustainability has been fixing tension with parking, via the OU Innovate app, which lets people get directly to a spot without circling around, reducing idling time and inefficient driving. We are trying to do more sustainable driving stuff, with an electric ride and drive with the Proterra Bus, we'll be applying for money from a Volkswagen court settlement to fund purchasing one.

Tim: Thank you.

[slides included]

The original need: we saw that there was a need to solve student transportation issues on campus, and as a Student Government Association we wanted to provide wheels to students. We initially considered a program that used to happen at OU, where old bikes that were impounded by OUPD were used as a pool of common bikes to share. This had a lot of limitations, primarily that people didn't return them, so we looked for a better option.

We did a lot of research on bikeshare programs, from incredibly expensive systems to the cheapest. SGA provided this information in an RFP (request for proposals) to purchasing. We waited and received many requests. After reviewing, we chose the Crimson Cruisers program out of Gotcha Bikes from Charleston. It gave us everything we needed at the cheapest price. We wanted GPS tracking, some free access, and high durability.

Bikes are gated, so you can only sign up to use them with an ou.edu email address. You get 1 hour free on the bikes each day because we are using student fees to fund the program and didn't want to add an additional cost. The hour can be spent all day, you only get charged for the time you use. Beyond that, it's prorated per minute, at \$5/hour.

Perks: All uniform design, onboard keypad to check out bikes, GPS tracking, smartphone app (but not necessary), built in the USA, design is customizable from manufacture, aluminum frame, kevlar seats, chainless belt drive, accelerometer for theft protection, u-bar lock, solar power charging batteries (powered by rubber belt too), basket built in, and many other things.

Some statistics for the past year:

5615 users have taken 84773 trips

More than quadrupled the number of rides of another comparable university with 200 bikes.

66409.95 lbs of carbon emissions reduced over car rides, assuming they would have driven otherwise.

Questions:

Dave: What about the fact that not every bike use is transplanting a car? Are the carbon reductions real numbers then?

Tim: It is true that they probably aren't all carbon reductions, we just can't tell because all of these data are produced by Gotcha's hubs and that isn't smart enough to know what the biker's alternative intent was. They're just the only numbers that I have.

Dave: What if I see a bike outside of the range parked at someone's apartment?

Tim: Depends – if it's on hold, they get 30 minutes of free reserve time that comes out of their hour where nobody else can take the bike. If you lock it outside a hub, it's \$5, and outside the system is \$30.

Dave: What about when people forget? Are they charged constantly?

Tim: The fees generally get waived by Gotcha, it's more of a training mechanism than actual enforcement.

Alex: Is there a maximum limited range?

Tim: No.

Burr: What happens if the rubber belt drive breaks?

Kris: Call the number, we'll send someone out to pick it up.

Burr: How is maintenance and repair handled?

Kris: That was provided for in the RFP, Gotcha has a deal with Buchanan Bikes on campus corner. We pay a fee directly to Gotcha, and they handle everything else.

Burr: What about distribution of bikes at hubs? Do they congregate at one destination?

Tim: They do, but we incentivize students by giving them notifications that they will get ride credit for redistributing bikes to priority hubs. This gives them a cushion if they ever need longer rides or to park them farther away, and it seems to work.

Alex: I do this.

Kris: We do see a lot of bikes get distributed south, just because of how students like to drive. Buchanan bikes handles the redistribution, per the RFP.

Sara: How do you communicate safety needs to bike riders?

Tim: There are stickers giving directions for students to wear helmets, use arm turn signals, and understand local traffic laws attached to the bikes. We are working on a safety video now, but we can't entirely enforce it on students. We are also working with the City of Norman to discuss ways to make Norman a more bike-friendly city.

Dave: Are there any liability issues?

Tim: Not for us – per the RFP, Gotcha assumes full liability responsibility for accidents owing to the use of the bikes.

George: Gotcha and Buchanan work with each other very closely, and it seems to be a very productive relationship.

III. Earth Month update

Dave: Earth Month has been going very well. We've had a number of very successful guests come and talk to great effect. We had a guest show up and talk about the cohesion between environmentalism and religion – they were packed out at all lectures. We've got people coming for World Water Day with the WaTER program in Engineering. Our final presentation will be from our new Corix endowed chair, Jeff Kelley, to talk about the Corix Plains Institute, a new sustainability research venture focusing on the interconnection between the Surveys on campus – Water, Biology, Meteorology, Geology, and Archaeology. This year we're running a raffle too, to get students involved with giveaways. Attendance has been great. Two more weeks to go – search Earth Month at OU on Google to find more information. Second Friday Art Walk in Norman is going to have an environmental theme this year, too. On Earth Day, the final event is a gathering at Reeves Park. The City released a proclamation recognizing Earth Month at OU.

Kolt: Update on Green Week – 16th-20th things are going well. We are doing a state of sustainability panel with Jeff Kelley, Kris Glenn, lots of folks. Friday, Buchanan bikes will be on campus doing free bike tune ups. **[Schedule attached]**

IV. ECC Environmental Stewardship Award

Burr: I'd like to have the voting members send a ranked list of awardees, with an email discussion of the winners.

V. Website Updates

Sarah: Things are going well. Kris is going to have a feature on it for Turn Up for Transit week, which is a sustainability awareness promotion from P&T. There will be an electric vehicle ride and drive from 11-2 at the Lloyd Noble Center as well, on April 12. **[Flyer attached]**

Future Agenda Items

None listed

Adjournment

Burr: Move to adjourn?

So passed, meeting adjourned 9:58am