



Earth Action Committee

Minutes – October 10, 2018

Ten Pin Building, Arcata

Present

Board Members: Colin Fiske, Robert Donovan, Cheri Strong, Leah Stamper

Member-Employees: Emily Walter, Kiya Villarreal, Lauren Fawcett, Travis Morgan

Members: None

1. Welcomes and review

At 6:55pm the meeting was called to order by Leah.

- The group agreed to remove agenda item 7 about compostable bags and reusable containers.

2. Approve minutes

Consensus reached to approve the September 2018 minutes.

3. Member comment

None

4. Reduce idling cars

- Colin – a member asked for us to discuss this topic. What can we do about idling cars in the parking lot?
- Emily – sounds like an educational campaign.
- Colin – I think there would need to be signs in the parking lot.
- Travis – put up multiple different signs.
- Kiya will work with Travis to put up signs by the end of October.

ACTION: Kiya will look into getting signs that already exist and work with Travis to install them by the end of October.

5. Electric vehicle charging stations

- Colin – its been discussed many times in the past to install Electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the parking lots but its never been feasible. I just went to a presentation from the CA Energy Commission and in April 2019 a program is starting to provide rebates for EV charging stations. The rebates are different for different types of chargers. There are rebates for fast chargers (full charge in ~20 minutes) and phase 2 chargers (full charge in 2-3 hours). To install a fast charge station, it costs about \$100,000. The rebate is 75% or cost or up to \$70,000. I don't know how long the program will last. If we put in a charging station, does one of the stations need to be handicapped? The state has legal guidance on this but its unclear. CAL eVIP
- Robert – ask our members if they'd like to front the money to make this happen. Members could invest and make up the difference of the rebate. The north east corner of the Co-op might be a good spot. I believe there is a good power source there.
- Emily - how do we do this if we are wanting to redo the Arcata parking lot?

ACTION: Kiya will look into the details of the CAL eVIP program.

6. PG&E clean-up

Tabled until November.

~~7. Compostable bags and reusable containers~~

8. Parking lot

Kiya passed out the results of the transportation survey in Arcata.

- Robert – suggests selling stand-up walking carts to make walking to the store more accessible.
- Travis – we could take out the bumps and resurface the parking lot without changing the grade. It needs to be resurfaced. Put a layer down and fix some drainage issues closer to the store. I believe the most recent bid to resurface was under \$10,000.
- Cheri – there is a giant drain under the parking lot that was installed around 2000.
- Travis – I agree with redesigning the parking lot, but I don't think that is going to happen soon. I think we should go ahead and repave for now.
- Colin – perhaps we could look into some simpler updates to the parking lot that wouldn't be too costly, such as adding a walking path.
- Robert – on military bases the outside carts never go inside the stores. Therefore, the carts don't bring dirt in stores, reducing wear and tear on the floor.
- ACTION: Travis will review the most recent bid.

9. Sustainability Coordinator update

- Kiya - I don't believe it's the best time to do the 100% renewable energy with RCEA. Instead I think we should explore options of producing our own solar energy. We did find \$1,300-1,400 monthly janitorial savings, not counting paying less for paper products.
 - o Travis – I think we'll be saving near \$1,700 monthly with many changes we recently implemented.
 - o Colin – Roger has told me that even if we covered the entire Arcata store roof it wouldn't be anywhere near enough to pay our bills.
 - o Kiya – I'm interested in looking into solar options, including ground supported panels.
 - o Colin – I do still want to look into going 100% renewable energy when the right time arises.
- Kiya - Forkless fall will be happening in both stores, focused on the deli in early November. There will be a 1-week event in each store, starting in Eureka. I plan on being at the store during lunch hours to help spread the word and work with deli staff.

ACTION: Kiya will explore a way to give away some cheap reusable forks.

- Kiya – I'm inviting SCRAP to table inside the store with me to talk about bulk purchases and tare weights.
- The plant start collection containers are doing well outside in Arcata. We gotten positive feedback and they are being used.
- Found a new person to take our packing peanuts
- The Worm Guy put the Eureka store on a timeout of two weeks for our compost. This was because I was not able to sort while working at the pumpkin patch. I'm going to clean the trash room and make it more functional.

ACTION: Kiya will send a vendor letter to the company that we get the paper straws from about their plastic packaging.

10. Next Agenda Items

- Arcata parking lot – low cost interventions
- EV charging stations
- PG&E clean-up

11. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be November 14, 6:45-8pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23pm

Minutes by Emily Walter

Floating Item: bulk alcohol