

CCSE Grounds and Tree Care Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Time: 1:00-2:00pm

Location: Transportation Building, 1351 S Morgan Street

Present: Pablo Acevedo, Roberta Mason-Gamer, Lisa Sanzenbacher, Carol Yetkens, Carly Rizor, Erik Grossnickle, Hulliam Kamlem, Fabiola Quiroz, Melissa Rosario, Kelly Ting

Discussion

1. Introduction

Acevedo introduced Carly Rizor, the new superintendent of Grounds in Building Maintenance Department, who just started January 5th. Rizor has done extensive work in Grounds. She works closely with Acevedo, and she is now the member of both CCSE Grounds and Tree Care committee.

2. Subcommittee Goal-settings

Cindy Klein-Banai and Ting had come up with a draft on subcommittee goals. Acevedo led the group to review the goals, and formed discussion around the feasibility of each goal and determined objectives.

Goal 1: Reduce storm water runoff volume (Phase 1, 2, 3) by 11.5% to 346 acre-foot of runoff volume by 2020

Ting said that the goal was derived from the recommendation of EPA Rainworks Plan. Yetkens said that in order to reduce storm water runoff, committees must consider three parts of the issue, which are education of the issue, identification of problems in the system such as broken pipe, and lastly methods of storm water diversion. Hulliams said that the permeable paving at Miles Square's parking lot helped prevent storm water runoff. But Yetkens responded saying that permeable pavement was good but did not provide good prevention. She said the soil in UIC that did not permit filtration was the main concern and that committee should address that. Acevedo said that it was challenging to people to monitor the storm water runoff volume. He will talk to Cindy Klein-Banai and people from Advanced Technical Technology building (ACTB) more about storm water issue and determine if this goal is feasible and measurable for the committee.

Goal 2: Increase tree diversity (<=5% of same species and 10% of same genus)

Yetkens reported that the tree species in UIC were decreasing because of the adaptability

of the trees. A lot of the trees that died included Oak tree and Ash tree. During the discussion, a list of recommended trees for UIC was provided to all members. Grossnickle said that he was able to evaluate the tree commendations and cross out the trees species that did not seem to do well in UIC soil and weather. He also stated that Climate Action Plan, Botanic Garden, and Forest Tree would be helpful for us to develop tree recommendations. As for tree diversity measurement, currently UIC only inventories new trees yearly. To get the statistics for the exact tree diversity around campus can be challenging because the inventory is not updated frequently—perhaps only every 5 years, realistically.

Goal 3: Increase native tree species to 65% by 2030

Group discussion was formed around the definition of “native”. It was suggested that the “native” tree in this goal statement should refer to region, but also adaptive to the regional climate. Therefore the goal statement should be more specific.

Goal 4: Increase campus tree canopy coverage to 25% by 2030

The group mentioned that this goal was reasonable, because right now the tree canopy coverage was about 17%, so if we continued our current effort, to push the tree canopy coverage to 25% increase by 2030 would be possible.

3. Landscape Training

Acevedo informed the group that Risor had helped direct team in facilities management in receiving proper landscape training. Both new employees and existing staffs had received training and education on tree pruning and pesticide application. Currently 24 out of 44 employees were already trained. The next training class is in March. This achievement will be reported in the next CCSE co-chair meeting.

4. Tree Learning Module in Class BS101

Mason-Gamer said that the module could reach 1000 undergraduates in UIC. The module consists of a guided tree walk activity for about 20 trees in UIC, and the information about each tree is provided during the tree walk. A tree map in .pdf format is available to the entire campus. Mason-Gamer said that she would send out the model used in this tree learning module, and also the tree map to the committee members. Sanzenbacher said that UIC experience has a sustainability theme, and suggested that the tree walk should be integrated in UIC experience.

5. Tree Event on April 17

Sanzenbacher said that UIC College Prep is organizing a Tree Event in April 17 in conjunction with Earth Month events. This tree event is mainly targeted at 60 high school students who visit UIC, and it will include introductory lectures on campus tree. UIC student group like SAPHE and also biology students will be able to assist with the event that day. Right now, Office of Sustainability is in the process of planning service learning activities for the tree event. Grossnickle said that if needed, he could donate tree seedling for the event.