**Environmental Issues Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 3rd, 2014 1:30pm to 2:30pm**

**EMU Board Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**Erin Moore – Architecture (chair)

Mark Reed – Geology

Ron Lovinger

Meg Mattson

Samantha Neal

Steve Mital   
Christine Thompson

**GUESTS**

Art Farley

Maeve Sowles

Jeff Nunes   
Shelley Villalobos

**WELCOME AND SELF-INTRODUCTIONS**The committee introduced themselves and approved the March meeting minutes.

**VAUX’S SWIFTS**Art and Maeve presented the idea of preserving the Agate chimney for the Vaux Swifts who come use that space. They requested that EIC introduce a motion to the Faculty Senate.

Maeve gave an introduction to Vaux’s Swifts. They are forest birds (insectavores) that have had to modify their habitat, they’ll nest in large rocks, snags or crevasses. They use chimneys as roost spaces on their way migrating north and come through in April and back thru heading south in September. As many as 12,000 birds use the Agate Chimney on a single night. Art mentioned that it could become a unique aspect of on-site ecological education.

Facilities recognize the value and cleaned the chimney last year. Art and Maeve ask the UO to formally commit to maintenance of the chimney for swifts and some signage and education nearby to educate visitors/community.

Meg asked if the Audobon Society could help with the funding of the maintenance of the chimney and suggest the Urban Farm might be interested in using the guano for fertilizer. Maeve said that it would be a minimal cost and that facilities put it on their maintenance schedule, but that the Society might be able to help with the signage. Christine said EHS should be aware of any project. Christine added that the neighbors (19th & Agate) have been interested in signage at the playground and suggested placing a durable plaque. Ron suggested that a play structure at the playground shaped like the birds would be a neat way to tell the story in an engaging way.

Mark asked if the seismic retrofit is secure for an 8.0 earthquake. Christine said it’s probably not at the top of the list because they have lots of other priorities for occupied buildings on campus.

Steve asked about any remote video in other locations. Maeve replied that there is one in Monroe, WA. There is a video on Youtube of Agate, Maeve explained that they used to use the Church Warehouse chimney but that this was capped around the same time the Agate boiler was decommissioned. Christine mentioned that if this occured 50 or more years ago, it could be incorporated into the historical story of the building.

Art suggests that the EIC recommend the aforementioned actions (formalize the commitment). Maeve mentioned that her contact on the Senate suggested the EIC as a potential route for getting some support for the project. Maeve will make a summary document/package of what such project might include. Christine suggested expanding the idea of signage to the idea of educational opportunity in it’s many forms. Ron emphasizes the potential of the playground activation where students from nearby schools can come to take photos, observe, do writing, etc. Steve will talk to the appropriate people to come back in May with a motion to vote on. Erin asked if anyone had connected with UO Communications.

COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY  
Steve updated the committee on the CEP. Three years ago the committee updated the CEP, the updates waited during admin and faculty senate structural changes. The President signed it in October 2013 and the Senate signed it in March 2014. The few changes Senate made will be reviewed by the President and hopefully signed in the coming weeks. The policy sets up plan updates in several major units. e.g. Campus Transportation will have to have an alt. transportation plan. This means we’ll have some clarity as to what we aim to do and what resources we’ll be dedicated.

Christine asked about visitors (e.g. Vaux’s Swifts experts) and how we might be able to look at the CEP and its operational plan and point to it or refer back to it in order to know ‘where it fits’.

**ATHLETICS SUSTAINABILITY WORK FOLLOWUP**Mark mentions the carbon footprint of athletics travel (20% of total University travel) and that Athletic’s commitment is low in this regard, historically. Jeff said Athletics is just not there yet.

Christine said educational opportunities are most import because of the sheer number of people who watch and experience sporting competitions. Jeff mentioned Sanipac having some large central areas and that we can plan that into the fall season. Steve asked whether there had been any discussion about an annual ‘green game’ with a PSA, some activations, etc. Meg said that UO football uniforms get a lot of attention, are there ways to incorporate more sustainable fibers, sweatshop free, etc. Jeff will find out what Nike is already doing.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is May 8th and will feature UO Foundation (Namyet) representation and Dave Smith from Campus Ops to talk about the dashboard system.