

# UA Sustainability Council || Minutes

Tuesday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

3:00-4:30PM

MS Teams



## 1. Co-chair updates

- a. Executive Director, University Arkansas Resiliency Center, Marty Matlock
  - i. Nothing to report at this time.
- b. Associate Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management, Mike Johnson
  - i. Last UASC meeting after being Associate Vice Chancellor for FAMA for 17 years. Mike's commitment to sustainability has lead the way for the UA being on-track for their 2040 climate commitment. We will miss you, Mike. Scott Turley will take over Mike's position as interim.
  - ii. Division of Agriculture had a Solar Services Agreement approved by the Board of Trustees in December.
  - iii. Refreshing and pushing forward with the Fayetteville Solar Services Agreement – looking at a 5mW unit which would cut 8% of the UAs electricity consumption.
  - iv. SWEPCO owns 800mW of a 1500mW wind farm and by April 1 200 mW will be online, and when it is the UA will be able to buy renewable energy credits (RECs) from them. It would be \$90-100k to buy out the rest of our purchased electricity through the RECs.
  - v. The SSA provides enough cash flow to supplement the rest of the UAs purchased energy with RECs. Work with UARC and Planet Forward and CAST to develop a storytelling strategy for the general public.
- c. ASG Sustainability Chair, Sydney Golding
  - i. Garden plot at Maple Hill (aka Community Garden)– purchased wildflowers and mulch, and are planning the spring plantings as well as programming for students to sustain the garden

- ii. Re-use room that was approved last year is piloting this spring but will not have a storefront because of Covid. They will have all the supplies that would be in the re-use room available for students at the ASG office.
- iii. Speed reduction bill passed ASG – bill limiting most campus streets to 20 mph for pedestrian safety. UA campus planning, City of Fayetteville, Transit and Parking, FAMA, UAPD, and OFS are doing a street inventory to confirm what streets are appropriate for 20mph. Making sure the right speed limits are applied to the right streets. Arkansas Avenue will serve as a pilot location for a reduced speed. Data is being collected now.

## 2. Fayetteville Traverse

### a. Soft-surface trails (Ammen Jordan)

- i. Fayetteville traverse – a soft surface, shared use trail that starts and ends on the UA campus, connecting with Kessler Regional Park and Centennial Park. This trail is entry level enough for all ages and abilities.
- ii. All trail for the Traverse west of I49 is complete, with the east side still under construction, and will be traversing on quite a bit of UA property.
- iii. Not only will this be an amazing amenity for citizens of Fayetteville, but for students and the UA recruitment as well. The Walton College of Business is doubling and tripling down on this opportunity.
- iv. NWA Trailblazers are offering “In Kind” trail building to the UA at no direct cost to the UA.
- v. Building the trail has provided the OFS with opportunities to restore habitat, enhance connectivity for transportation, trash and invasive plant removal, native plant propagation and habitat creation.
- vi. The new trail system will travel through natural character zones of campus landscape and will be an opportunity to enhance the landscape of those spaces to compliment the trail system.

- b. Oak savanna restoration (Eric Boles)
  - i. 2300 S Razorback – check out the Oak Savannah Property being restored in person. 200-year-old Post Oaks on the property!
  - ii. The restoration plan includes: removal of structures and overhead utilities, removal of non-native invasive plants, removal of ~2500 ft of chain-link and barbed-wire fence, and improving biodiversity by a prescribed burn and adaptive management.
- 3. Climate Action Pursuit (Eric Boles)
  - a. Four events throughout 2021, identifiable action items implemented throughout the year with support from peers
  - b. UA Resiliency Center identified the UA as a host institution, 10 key campus stakeholders will virtually attend the four events, and the events are also open to all UA students.
- 4. Monarch Waystations (Eric Boles)
  - a. OFS project identifying small flower beds across campus that have invasive plants, overgrown, or neglected and turn them into pollinator plots (native plants that are pollinator friendly).
  - b. One bed at the UA Press House became an officially designated Monarch Waystation.
  - c. Housing has supported the concept and allowed students and resident staff to update some of their beds into pollinator plots.
  - d. Working on the beds around campus been a great way to get students engaged with the environment and is a Covid friendly activity.