

February

Attendees

Daniel, Jay, McKinney, Andrea Ludwig, Becky Sparks, David Hamilton, Holly Jones, Hayley Simpson, Terry Ledford, Ellen Bobo

Voting Members

McKinney, Ludwig, Sparks, Simpson, Ledford, Bobo

Gardens Electric Mower Fleet Replacement

Contact

David Hamilton

Summary

Seeking funds for three electric mowers, one push mower, one standing mower, and one autonomous mower

Benefits

The fleet would act as an exhibition of UT Gardens' dedication to reducing carbon emissions to over 100,000 visitors a year. Using electric motors would dramatically reduce carbon emissions as UT Gardens uses mowers for up to 6 hours a day in summer. Satisfies commitment to transition to 40% of landscaping equipment to electric models by 2030. Estimates that autonomous mower would reduce time by three hours a day

Timeline

Equipment purchased in February, used in March

Budget

\$37,798.99

- Motion proposed by Mike with the addition of a "doghouse" (not to exceed \$40,000)
- Motion seconded by Andrea
- Ayes: Becky, Andrea, Mike, Ellen, Hayley
- **Motion Passed**

UT Gardens Helping Hands Kitchen Garden Renovation

Contact

Holly Jones

Summary

Seeking funds to renovate the Helping Hands Kitchen Garden. Funds would be used to purchase new garden beds, as the current beds are 12 years old. New beds would be contained in fabricated stone blocks. Funds would also be used to replace off-target

irrigation with a more effective/efficient system. Final part of funding would be used to build a new orchard and pollinator garden.

Benefits

Renovation would allow the Gardens to continue donating to numerous charities throughout Knoxville (they donated 2,331lbs in three years time). The Kitchen Garden is also used to teach students (2,162 students since 2011). 5150 total people have worked, studied, and volunteered at the garden since 2011. Pollinator garden contains native plants that will create new habitats for pollinator species, help fulfill the Bee Campus USA mission, and increase growth in the kitchen garden.

Budget

\$56,062 (part of the cost has been fundraised. Total cost is \$74,162)

- Motion proposed by Mike
- Motion seconded by Andrea
- Ayes: Mike, Ellen, Becky, Andrea, Hayley
- Nays:
- **Motion Passed**

Air and Process Chilled Water Economizers

Contact

Terry Ledford

Summary

Seeking funds for an engineering analysis to determine cost and ROI for new digital controls and minor ductwork changes to take advantage of cooler outside air

Benefits: If the ROI supports modifications, the resulting project could be funded using the revolving fund

Budget

No greater than \$30,000 each (\$120,000 maximum for four buildings)

Timeline

Estimated four months after approval

- Motion proposed by Mike
- Motion seconded by Andrea
- Ayes: Simpson, Sparks, Andrea, Mike
- Nays:
- One more vote needed by email.
- Yes vote received from Thomas Walsh via email 2/22/23.
- **Motion Passed**

Tighten Exterior Envelope on Strong Hall

Contact

Terry Ledford

Summary

Seeking funding to fix leaks at the envelope between the walls of the building and the roof.

Benefits

Repairing leaks in the exterior envelope will dramatically reduce energy consumption

Budget

\$20,000 revolving fund

- Motion proposed by Mike
- Motion seconded by Andrea
- Ayes: Mike, Becky, Hayley, Andrea
- Nays:
- One more vote needed by email.
- Yes vote received from Thomas Walsh via email 2/22/23.
- **Motion Passed**

Discussion Points

Knoxville Urban Forestry - previous proposal-student(s) to add to their advisory board.

We're excited to work with your group and for you all to be part of Knoxville's Urban Forest Master Plan. We have formed an advisory group comprised of representatives from various departments across the city of Knoxville gov't as well as people from neighborhood groups, developers, realtors, other non-profits among other pertinent industries and organizations. We'd like to get some student leaders involved especially those that are involved in sustainability/environmental issues on campus.

With the 10-year plan moving forward and the expansion of the campus footprint there are students who are asking for their input to be heard to make the campus more liveable and accommodating to all, and not just growth for growth.

Also, there will be conflicts with trees and UT campus' growth in the future and it would be good to have students' input on how to address this and the challenges that will be faced. I am sure Sam can offer a perspective on growth and trees that others may not have as well.

We essentially want to make sure your group has voice and we're asking for their involvement to the level you feel comfortable with. Being part of the advisory group

would likely be the official capacity as we already have at least half a dozen or so folks from UT in the group. However we think due to the perspective gained from the group and your all's capital contribution we're eager to have even more involvement and perhaps holding a workshop specific to UT or a meeting with our consultant who is assembling the Master Plan.

Current events and dates we've designated are as follows:

Advisory Group Workshops

- Workshop 1: *The Trees* - February 23rd, 2023. Thursday, from 8-10 AM
- Workshop 2: *The Players* - March 23rd, 2023. Thursday, from 8-10 AM
- Workshop 3: *The Management Approach* - Apr 20th, 2023. Thursday, from 8-10 AM

Public Meetings

1. Public Open House: April 20th, 2023. TBA

The Master Plan process will extend into August of this year and from there our consultant team will begin setting goals for our city and writing the overall plan. The discovery effort starts now and will last into August. Here is a link to the plan website: <https://www.knoxvilletreeplan.org/>

March

Attendees

Chair: Jay Price

Secretary: Daniel Covington

Guests: Josie Calhoon, Ellen Barnes

Committee Members

Becky Sparks, Hayley Simpson, Mike McKinney, Rachel Stewart, Ellen Bobo

SPEAK Event Funding

Contact

Arden Oberlander and Ellen Barnes

Summary

Funds will be used to purchase supplies for the following events hosted by SPEAK: candle-making workshop, upcycling workshop, Grab and Grow event, veggie burger cookout, and paint-the-rock event. Additionally, funding will be used to purchase promotional t-shirts branded with the SPEAK logo.

Benefits

These events would not be possible without the requested supplies. These events are one of SPEAK's most important methods to encourage students to join the club and create a community dedicated to sustainability at large. Additionally, providing materials for experiential learning during club meetings will provide a more enriching educational experience for students.

Timeline

Remainder of the spring semester

Budget

No more than \$1,782 from MOG Expansion (Original budget for t-shirts was \$1,121, but SPEAK is looking into cheaper options)

- Motion proposed by Rachel Stewart
- Motion seconded by Michael McKinney
- Ayes: Simpson, Sparks, McKinney, Stewart, Bobo
- **Motion Passed**

Plastic Free UT Tote Bags

Contact

Ellen Barnes

Benefits

Reusable bags decrease the amount of single-use plastic bags that are consumed. Additionally, branded bags will increase member recruitment and retention.

Budget

\$800.00 from MOG Expansion (Original budget was for \$739.57. The committee rounded up to cover additional expenses, such as shipping and handling)

- Motion proposed by Michael McKinney
- Motion seconded by Rachel Stewart
- Ayes: McKinney, Sparks, Bobo, Stewart, Simpson
- **Motion Passed**

Mag Dog Earth Day Fair

Contact

Josie Calhoon

Summary

Seeking funding for material for an Earth Day festival hosted by the Mag Dog RA's. The festival will include three tables that are focused on teaching students about compost, gardening, and sustainability trivia. There will also be a smoothie bike station as an additional promotional item.

Benefits

Budgeted materials will be used to incentivize students to participate in sustainable activities. These materials will contribute to aspects of experiential learning, providing a more enriching learning experience for students.

Timeline

April 22, 2023

Budget

\$400 from MOG Expansion

- Motion proposed by Michael McKinney
- Motion seconded by Hayley Simpson
- Ayes: McKinney, Simpson, Sparks, Stewart, Bobo
- **Motion Passed**

KUB Round It Up

Contact

Terry Ledford

Summary

KUB Round it Up is a program, in which customers may round their bill up to the nearest dollar.

Benefits

The excess funds go towards Home Uplift, a program that helps disadvantaged

Timeline

Could be initiated immediately upon approval and renewed each year.

Budget

No more than \$3,600 per year

- Motion proposed by Michael McKinney
- Motion seconded by Rachel Stewart
- Ayes: Sparks, Stewart, Simpson, Bobo, McKinney
- **Motion Passed**

October

Attendees

Jay Price, Daniel Covington, Lauryn Johnson, RoseMarie Villegas, Terry Ledford, Mia Roark, Aleksandr McGovern, Harper Pertchik, Rachel Stewart, Julia Craven, Michael McKinney, Thomas Walsh

Green Roof Research Plot at the UT Gardens

Project

To construct 8 raised garden beds that will function the same as green roofs

Benefits

They will be used for experimentation and to educate students and the public

Original Project Timeline

September '22 - December '22

Total Expected Cost

\$50,000

- **Motion Passed** to oversight committee

SPEAK Garden Project Part II

Project

To expand the existing SPEAK Garden both in size and abundance. Improvements will include an orchard, berries, and other fruiting plants.

Benefits

Students can learn by tending the garden. Produce will be donated to the Culinary Institute, Smokey's Pantry, and Big Orange Pantry to combat food insecurity on campus. The site will also be able to support more local wildlife.

Original Project Timeline

September '22 - May '23

Total Expected Cost

\$10,000

- **Motion Passed** contingent upon approval by the Campus Planning and Design Committee

Plastic Free UT and Compost Coalition Stickers

Project

To design and purchase stickers with Plastic Free UT and Compost Coalition branding

Benefits

Stickers will be eco-friendly and will be made of compostable materials. They will help the Compost Coalition and Plastic Free UT advertise their endeavors, thus supporting other sustainable projects

Total Expected Cost

\$300

- **Motion Passed** to fund stickers at \$300.

Smokey's Cleanup Crew

Project

To purchase food for volunteers at Smokey's Cleanup Crew events

Benefit

Compensation for volunteers and an incentive for more volunteers in the future

Total Expected Cost

\$7,500

- **Motion Passed**

Make Orange Green - Outreach for Office of Sustainability (OoS) events

Project

Hosting events such as Environmental Leadership Awards, Earth Day/Week/Month Festival, purchasing t-shirts and food for game day volunteers, advertising for events and volunteering, signage/stickers, give-aways for surveys etc.

Benefits

Improve awareness of and engagement in OoS and sustainable campus initiatives

Total Request

\$60,000 per year for 3 years

- **Motion Passed**

Plastic Free Tailgate

Project

To purchase Earth Cups, a compostable alternative to Solo Cups, for use at the Plastic Free Tailgate

Benefits

Earth Cups are 100% compostable and would reduce the amount of plastic litter that is produced during football games

Total Expected Cost

\$1,200

- **Motion Passed**

HVAC Modifications at Walters Academic Building (REVOLVING FUND PROPOSAL)

Project

Refitting Walters Academic Building to use return air instead of outside air in the HVAC system

Benefits

Conditioning outside air requires at least four times as much energy as conditioning return air. Savings on energy would exceed \$100,000 within the first year.

Requesting a revolving fund of \$500,000

- **Motion Passed**

Plastic Free Festival: Smokey's Last Plastic Bag

Project

To host a festival with local environmentally-friendly businesses, a FreeStore pop up, live music, activities, and tabling for student organizations. The festival will use only recyclable, reusable, or compostable materials.

Benefits

To advertise sustainable projects, initiatives, and organizations on campus in order to get students more involved on campus and grow closer to our Zero Waste goals

Total Expected Cost

\$11,182

- Vote has been **postponed**

November

Attendees

Andrea Ludwig, Hayley Simpson, Thomas Walsh, Michael McKinney, Rachel Stewart, Ellen Bobo, Julia Craven, Mak Harmon, Brad Moats

“Taste of Sustainability” Food Vendor Costs

Project

Plastic Free UT will be partnering with SGA to host an event called “Taste of Sustainability”. This fund will pay for gluten free food from Mama C’s.

Benefits

This food would attract a larger number of students to the event, where they will be exposed to many sustainability-related student organizations. Students will also be educated on how to make their holiday celebrations less wasteful by teaching them about compostable service ware and gathering ingredients from local sources.

Total Expected Cost

\$180

- Motion proposed by McKinney, seconded by Ludwig
- Votes in favor: McKinney, Bobo, Stewart, Simpson, Ludwig, Walsh
- **Motion Passed**

Free Store Inventory System

Project

The installation of an inventory management system at UTK ‘s Free Store

Benefits

Installation would provide better data tracking to gauge long-term success of the Free Store. It would also allow the Free Store to better gauge and provide for the needs of its customers. The Free Store would be able to assess the necessary number of a certain type of item to keep in store and donate the excess to another place where it will be used.

Total Expected Cost

\$13,851.20

- Motion proposed by McKinney, seconded by Ludwig
- Votes in favor: Bobo, McKinney, Ludwig, Simpson, Stewart, Walsh
- **Motion Passed**

Photovoltaic System at Johnson Research Teaching Unit

Project

To assist ETREC with a rooftop solar array

Benefits

Funding will help increase the annual offset of electricity from the grid from about 150,000 kWh to 225,000 kWh. The project is estimated to pay for itself in approximately 20 years.

Total Expected Cost

\$200,000

Amendment Proposed

Stipulation that a sign about how photovoltaic (PV) systems work and the importance of solar generated electricity must be visible in a prominent location and include a digital display of the energy production of the PV system.

- Motion proposed by McKinney, seconded by Ludwig
- Votes in favor: Stewart, McKinney, Simpson, Walsh, Ludwig
- **Motion Passed** as long as adequate signage will be present

MOG Fund Expansion for Student Organizations

Project

An expansion of the current Make Orange Green fund that can be used to pay for items that are directly related to events and branding related to environmentally-related student organizations. Student organizations would still make proposals to the SEIC, but the funding would already be available for immediate dispersal.

Benefit

Student organizations would no longer need to front the cost with personal or departmental funds, making this process much more clearly defined, equitable, and fair. A pre-existing fund would remove barriers for events that would increase student engagement in sustainability. It would also increase the amount of green branding on campus.

Total Expected Cost

\$40,000

- Motion proposed by Stewart, seconded by Bobo
- Votes in favor: Bobo, McKinney, Simpson, Stewart, Ludwig, Walsh
- **Motion Passed**

Proposals sent to Brian Browning, Chair of Oversight Committee on 11/2/22 at approximately 2pm via email from Jay Price, chair of SEIC.