

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

Thursday, July 10, 2008 2:00 pm
Natural Resources Center Room 1101

Minutes

Present: Roy Coons Renee Gonzales
 Laurence Fischbach Liz Smith

Absent: David Jensen

Guests: Chris Cherniss

1. **Call to Order:**
Roy called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
The February minutes were approved by the Council.
3. **New Business – Hike and Bike Trail**

Laurence Fischbach presented to the Council future plans for the Hike and Bike trail. Aesthetics and making the Hike and Bike trail a place where people want to go were the objectives for the Hike and Bike trail project. Fischbach stated the Hike and Bike trail project be consistent with objectives found in the Weave On Line and the Momentum plan. Fischbach stressed the need to have more entry points onto the trail, open up areas of heavy brush that obstruct the beautiful views along the Cayo del Oso. Signage would be improved, the DOT signs are not necessary for the Hike and Bike trail. Some damaged signs would be removed while other signs that identify vegetation along the trail would be relocated closer to the vegetation being described. Sitting areas with benches and shade will be created, a deck for bird watching is proposed. Renee Gonzales suggested placing mile markers along the trail.

A web-site is planned that will promote the trail. Pictures of the local wildlife and vegetation will be placed on the website.

Safety/Security is a high priority along the trail. Gonzales suggested have a greater police presence on the trail. She is reluctant to use the trail alone. Vegetation has been strategically removed to allow trail users to see what is around the next turn.

Additional Code Blue phones will be installed so that a phone will always be in the line of sight.

In past classes Liz Smith has assigned Human Use projects for the Hike and Bike trail to her students.

Chris Cherniss remarked that he knew of several students that would be interested in non-thesis projects. Smith stated that she has an extensive file containing Hike and Bike trail information and proposed projects for the trail. Smith stated that the trail restoration project may promote Nature Tourism, provide opportunities for grants, perhaps outside organizations would fund projects.

Fischbach recommended that the Council form a sub-committee. Gonzales recommended that the sub-committee be called the Hike and Bike Trail Restoration Sub-Committee. Smith was asked to be the chair and name individuals on campus that she would like to have serve with her.

Fischbach called the Hike and Bike trail restoration project Phase One. Phase Two will be the development of the new property donated to the University. Fischbach proposes working with the architects and others to develop a master plan for that site.

Old Business:

1. Special Session held May 22, 2008

No discussion

2. Announcements

No discussion

3. Call for Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2008 at 2:00 pm. Place to be announced.

Respectfully submitted by:
Roy D. Coons