

The Evergreen State College

Health and Safety Committee Minutes: July 12th, 2024

Meeting began at 10AM – July 12th.

Attendees: Sina, Taylor, William, Jason, Abdul, Trish, Zeb, Teresa, Eric

Sina began meeting calling for last month's minutes.....Eric noted there are no minutes from June meeting as it was not recorded. Apologies!

301 reports:

- There were two accidents from last month, one a wellness activity injury to foot and one a wilderness training accident to arm. Note one injury so far in July in that a cart ran over foot.

Sampling - monitoring report (air, water etc.) : None currently.

- Sina noted that Asbestos testing and monitoring is ongoing, as needed. Taylor noted upcoming work will be performed in the Lab areas that will require coordination with Trish to ensure safe work in the presence of Asbestos/testing etc.

Sub Comm reports:

- Smoking shelter applications to be submitted to SLUG for Aug 12th meeting. Eric and Teresa currently working with William to supply all needed info.
- William spoke to the need to have representative from RADD at these meeting going forward. William expressed the importance of this with the huge amount of work being done in housing now and in the future. Sina pointed out that Daniel is a committee member and will send rep as/if needed.
- William reinforced offer to help with applications to SLUG as well as sight plans in relation to smoking shelters. Much appreciated.

Safety program Updates:

- Taylor spoke to ongoing repair and service of elevators on campus, shortage of parts in some cases etc.
- William spoke to the ongoing ADA work in relation to elevators and the complex challenges this has and is presenting. Many, many moving parts. Currently working with contractors' coordination as well as incredible amount of signage and direction and procedure info in the event of an emergency as it relates to ADA needs as well as general student body and staff etc. Making sure that all can be evacuated from every floor in the event of emergencies including a back up plan with fire dept etc. Details such as evacuation in the case of power outages and or fire etc. Huge project involving identifying all access points and coordinated response to alarms. Goal to have booklets and clear instruction to everyone on campus in terms of what to do in the case of emergencies, clear instruction in classrooms and in all campus buildings. Jason spoke to the need for clear concise identification in relation to exit points and emergency procedure in the library. Very important that this info is clear and available to all users etc. Jackie working on this and is and will be in touch to detail this action. Note that William as well as Taylor expressed the enormity of this project and the vast complications involved. However, both expressed the incredible progress that has and is being made in this area(s).

Other items:

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- Eric mentioned need to make sure that safety rules, guidelines are being followed and there is clear understanding by staff as to procedure. Sina emphasized that this has been and is an ongoing concern and that dept supervisors must take a major role in this area as in checking job sites, before work safety meetings/ reviews etc.
- Sina mentioned that safety concerns can be brought forward anytime in person as well as online anonymously. Note that a recent anonymous report detailed concern over tossed Banana peel being left on walkway! Very important.
- Taylor spoke to the importance of following guidelines, rules for working in high temps. Constant hydration, frequent breaks, proper clothing in relation to state guideline and requirements. In addition, George as facilities manager has asked that campus workers go indoors in temps over 90 degrees. Sina noted that all this info is available on the EHS website. In addition, there is a cooling center set up on campus and can be used by all. Trish inquired as to sending students to cooling center(s) as opposed to going home in the event of campus closures. William to follow up on this.

Open Discussion opportunity:

- Sina updated group on Dept of Ecology recent inspection on campus. Overall the school did very well with no outstanding violations. Sina emphasized the importance of labeling and prepping items (batteries, chemicals, E waste etc.) in all cases. Very important to not move “mystery” items, or questionable items while not leaving them unattended. Please call Sina, Taylor to investigate and then we will follow appropriate procedure to remove and store items.
- Lengthy discussion concerning, among other things, the need for increased communication when laying out projects and performing work on campus. This in relation, reference to CRC Pavilion flooring project and its removal and installation etc. This in regard safe work for all employees in all situations with complete, timely access to all safety related info as much as possible etc. Planning process with project managers for all involved parties and review to come etc. This discussion can be reviewed as needed as it was quite long as all (well almost all, my apologies for June) meetings are recorded for sight and sound.
- Teresa mentioned ongoing need to curb bird (Pidgeon) nesting and the resulting mess it causes on the walkways around SEM II in particular. Taylor reported that a bid is in the process to take care of situation.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10.