Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Environmental, Health & Safety Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2010
Bell Library – Conference Room 208 (2nd floor)

Members Present:
Roy Coons, Chair
Carla Berkich
Mark Bohling
Mary Canales
Steve Dial
Amanda Drum
Alan Gutierrez
Jan Haswell
Kelly Jenschke
Ralph McFarland
Karen Murray
Cindy Roper
J.R. Sanders
Michael S. Williamson
Jill Underbrink

Members Absent:
Art Bayarena, Ed Eiland, Laurence Fischbach, Lindsey Keller, Joanna Mott, Jody Nelsen, Brien Nicolau

Non Voting Members/Guests:
Benjamin Lara, David Nuckels, Fran Trevino

I. Call to Order:
Roy D. Coons, Chair called the Meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

II. Approve Minutes:
Coons requested a motion to approve the Minutes from the January 20, 2010 meeting. Jan Haswell motioned and seconded by Kelly Jenschke. Unanimously approved.

Coons stated that the February 23, 2010 meeting did not have a quorum, therefore not considered an official meeting. Minutes are unofficial and will not require approval.

III. Old Business
a. Sand Dollar Blvd./Wavecrest Drive Intersection –

Jan Haswell asked "as a committee, what are we recommending"? Coons answered that from a non traffic engineering standpoint, lighting and the location of the crosswalk are issues that need to be addressed.

David Nuckels offered the firm of Wilbur Smith Associates in San Antonio, TX. This is a firm he is familiar with from his previous employment with TXDOT.

Gutierrez – Suggested a campus wide pedestrian flow study—once parking garage is online other parking lots may become more user friendly.

Referring to the Wavecrest/Sand Dollar crosswalk, Alan Gutierrez stated that the sidewalk needs to be moved to the south of Wavecrest. Vehicular flows are the only thing being considered. Need to include pedestrian flow.

What the university has to do is provide the safest way on the South side of campus to accommodate the Hammerhead parking lot and extend sidewalk to Center for the Arts. The left turn off of Wavecrest is the problem. Adding to the problem is the fast moving north/south traffic along Sand Dollar Blvd.

Chief Gutierrez offered to purchase additional pedestrian crosswalk signs to post at the Sand Dollar Blvd. / Wavecrest Drive intersection and other areas on campus.

McFarland suggested approaching Ms. Nelsen with.
1. Hire consultant to study and the whole campus.
2. Hire a consultant to study just for the Sand dollar /Wavecrest intersection.
3. Ask Physical Plant to move the crosswalk/sidewalk from the north side to the south side.

Drum amended the recommendation to hire a consultant to look at entire campus and pedestrian flow and take immediate temporary measures to minimize the risk to pedestrians.

Drum added that she did not know what the temporary fix might be. McFarland suggested signage on Wavecrest prior to turning left on to Sand Dollar Blvd.

Coons asked for a motion to request for a pedestrian study proposal. Steve Dial motioned and was seconded by Amanda Drum. Unanimously approved.
b. Student training update -
No update.

c. February’s Safety Walk – postponed-
Due to the last meeting being scheduled on the coldest, wettest day of our winter season the Safety Walk was postponed to sometime in November. Coons thanked Jill Underbrink for hosting the meeting at Camden Miramar and providing refreshments.

IV. New Business
a. “Have An Exit Strategy” – (HAES) Program
The State Fire Marshal’s office was awarded a federal grant to educate Texas college and university communities on “Have an Exit Strategy”. The way you enter into a room or building may not be the best way out. Sometime in July the Environmental, Health & Safety Department will receive brochures, buttons, magnets, and CD’s for dissemination on campus. Coons proposed establishing a group that includes Students/Athletics/CERT Team to assist with the dissemination of (HAES) information. The strategy not only applies to fires, but any emergency or incident that requires getting out of harm’s way. American Bank Center will also be included by Student Affairs to inform the visually impaired. Website: haveanexitstrategy.com

Berkich – add to future agenda (Communication during a crisis).

b. Upcoming Safety Walk
Coons asked for ideas on where to conduct the next Safety Walk and added that committee members should take notes on safety issues found on campus. They should be reported to E,H&S. You don’t necessarily need to use the E,H&S checklist if you find something that should be addressed.

Steve Dial recommended that Center for Sciences would benefit from a Safety Walk after the chemical spill that occurred the prior week.

Drum suggested the Nursing Building before it opens for business. Punch list times are from 5-17 thru 7-1/2010.

Cindy Roper suggested the Garcia Plaza or Bell Library for a safety walk. Michael Williamson – again expressed his concern for staff at the Lee Welcome Center in that there is one staff member downstairs and one staff member upstairs. From time to time transients walk in and the staff may not know what to do if a problem arises. Gutierrez suggested to “greet and engage” yourself with people entering your area. Officer Lara said that he makes rounds at Lee Welcome Center and will continue to do so.

c. E,H&S Annual Report FY 09 - @ safety.tamucc.edu
Coons stated that the Annual Report can be viewed on the Environmental, Health Safety website.

V. Announcements
Coons announced the “Look While You Cook” e-wareness slide on the E,H&S website. Fire alarms have been unnecessarily activated due to persons walking away from the microwave allowing the popcorn or other food items to burn.

Mary Canales – Performing Arts Parking lot – heavy traffic around the corner should be studied. E,H&S will begin a bi-monthly meeting schedule.

VI. Adjournment
Coons asked for a motion to adjourn. Karen Murray moved to adjourn and seconded by Roy Coons. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12th, 2010.

Submitted by: Fran Trevino, Secretary, ex-officio – March 30, 2010.