SLCP Meetup #15 Thursday, September 2, 2021, 11am

Moderator / Notetaker: Annemarie Gordon

Attendance: Roger Reyes (SLCS), Sara Fiorenzo (Lindenhurst), Jen Ferriss (Saratoga Springs), Jeri Cohen (Patchogue-Medford), Patricia Moisan (Harborfields), Robert Goykin (Sayville), Jocelyn Ozolins (Shelter Island), Nicola McDonald (Haverstraw King's Daughters), Lisa Kropp (Lindenhurst), Courtney Tsahalis (Millbrook), Kelly Sheridan (Bayport-Blue Point), Lisa Jacobs (Longwood), Janet Scherer (South Huntington), Wayne Piskin (CCP Print Solutions)

Introductions:

Attendees introduced themselves, stated what library they are representing, and discussed where they are in the process of becoming certified. There were attendees representing different stages of the process, from thinking about joining the certification program, to just getting started, and to those whose libraries have already been certified.

Congratulations to Longwood:

Lisa Jacobs, Director of Longwood Public Library, our newest Certified Sustainable Library was in attendance and was congratulated for working through the pandemic to get certified.

Vendor: CCP Solutions/PrintReleaf

Wayne Piskin, Owner of CCP Print Solutions joined our Meetup. He is working with SLI to provide the PrintReleaf Platform to our members. PrintReleaf is a program that offsets an organization's paper use with investments in tree planting projects. Wayne has worked with SLI and PrintReleaf to build a Dashboard for SLI members to aggregate their paper use and tree planting offsets into a combined metric to demonstrate the collective impact that our libraries are making. Please contact Annemarie (sliadmin@suffolknet.org) for information about how your library can be included in our Dashboard.

SLI Updates:

New resources and events are continually being added to the website. Suggestions are always welcome. Annemarie has been working on submitting grant and conference proposals to continue to spread the word about the work that we are doing and our certification program. We have been seeing an increased interest and have gained individual memberships from outside of NY.

Jeri Cohen from Patchogue Medford library has agreed to become a mentor for our program.

Discussion:

The group discussed how to deal with waste that accumulates from MakerSpaces, specifically 3D printer plastic filaments and Cricut scraps. A new device that remelts and forms 3D Printer filament was discussed, but the price and quality may be barriers. Other suggestions included

finding a way to repurpose waste filament or contacting the manufacturer for recycling and to encourage them to think through the life cycle of their product.

There was a discussion of maintaining focus on all three parts of the triple bottom line sustainability definition, not just environmental, but social equity and fiscal responsibility too.

A question about how to find resources for recycling was asked. Word of mouth and asking other SLCP participants and mentors were mentioned. This may be a good resource to add to the SLI website.

The SLI Certification Member Listserv was also mentioned as a good place to solicit advice and post resources.

A prospective certification member asked about the benchmark process and how to access the details. It was explained that the list of benchmarks are available once you enroll in the program. Annemarie is available to meet with anyone interested and walk through the process, highlighting some of the Action Items. The exact path that any library takes will be individual to the needs of that staff, library, and their community.

There was a discussion of how to elicit staff participation in the program. Suggestions included soliciting volunteers and working together on projects such as seedling plantings. Some libraries started with "Green Teams" and now have evolved to "Idea Team" and shifted focus to equity, diversity, and inclusion issues. It was suggested that this not be forced on staff. Sometimes it is better to let a "Sustainability Team" take the lead and not let the process be top-down directives. It was also noted that administrative support is important and that staff turnover could be expected, but as the process moves forward, it will gain momentum.

Hosting programs off sight was mentioned as a way to engage community members who are not regular library users. Saratoga Springs is hosting a Repair Cafe next to the public housing apartments in their community. Lindenhurst have been holding programs throughout their community while their building is under construction and this has been well received.

Our next SCLP Meetup is scheduled for Thursday, October 7th, at 11am. Register here.