“Safety is to encompass your mind, body & spirit. This will contribute not only to safe practices at work, but also have lasting effects on your family and life at home.”
Back Brief Topics: Sept. 2020

Old Business:

➢ We put back up cameras on Sept meeting. Mainly due to Jonathan being out, as he is the driving force for this.
➢ Last month’s minutes were accepted by the committee.

New Business:

➢ We will continue the talk about back up cameras. Mike Duffy will work the vendor to get a quote on his end and give it to Rich for his opinion/approval?
➢ We will need to get with all supervisors to discuss a regular spotting program, either semi-annual, or annually?

Incident Data Review:

➢ Bonnie went over the Incident Review portion to which she stated that no new accidents/incidents. Landscaping-Recycling have 4 incidents YTD.
➢ Please continue reporting of near misses.
➢ Bobby Putrino chimed in with his views on our incident/accident data.

"You don’t need to know the whole alphabet of Safety. The A, B, C of it will save you if you follow it: Always Be Careful."
GENERAL SAFETY AT A GLANCE:

➢ A new and very different move-in was conducted in lieu of the COVID-19 pandemic. The move-in process encompassed an entire week and carried over into the weekend and on Labor Day! This was from my viewpoint a nice transition from what usually happens.

➢ Several construction areas from last month that will still impede traffic, (McCormick & Alderman Road Intersection, Alderman Library, Gilmer Hall, paving on Emmett street, Hospital complex, Bice-Bond and the new student health construction that coincides with Endoscopy at 500 Monroe lane).

➢ Supervisor’s even though it’s mid-September we’ll still need to be mindful of the heat and hydration to include the work time to break ratio!

➢ Effective 23 September 2020, there has been a change in wearing of the mask policy that we’ll need to adhere to. The change states that the mask must be worn both indoors and outdoors, except when you’re alone! Even when you’re outside the mask must be worn—even when you’re practicing social distancing. Sanitize your hands before and after you put on your mask; these are some of the changes. Rich Hopkins
sent an e-mail out covering this issue in more detail, please read it and follow all guidelines.


➢ Trevor and Jim want to warn everyone about the impending fall and leaf season! Also, they wanted everyone to be aware of the walnut trees at the French house—be aware and watch out for your head—“It might hurt if one lands.”

➢ Mike Duffy was at the safety committee meeting to discuss the possibility of having back up camera’s installed on certain vehicles within the Landscaping department. Long story, but the end state is that Mike is going to get with the vendor for a quote and then will discuss the issue with Rich on the possibilities of getting cameras installed. This conversation transpired from what Jonathan Racey brought to the committee on ground guiding/safety, when backing up alone.

AROUND THE ROOM:

Victor-Safety Chair Report:

➢ I mainly talked about the composting/recycling efforts underneath the newly constructed social tents at O-Hill Dinning (Putting Green), Hume Plaza, Peabody Hall, the tents at Homer (2), The enslaved laborer memorial and the last tent is at the Darden School. Trying to come up with a plan that involves Eric Walters (Owner-Operator) of Black Bear Composting about how to sort and process the compost to where no contamination is present! Jim stated that he would like to see a more streamlined process of collecting and sorting the material so that it can be composted, rather than being thrown away.

Jim-McCormick Zone Report:

➢ Jim wanted to remind everyone about the construction around grounds and be aware of pending traffic disruption. He pointed out that we do have a home football game this weekend and they’re busy preparing for that event. Jim brought up about the ongoing sewage sampling being done at the dorms during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Trevor-Hospital Zone Report:

➢ Trevor stated not much had changed from last month. He did want to bring up about how two-layers of leaves could bring about some slip and trip hazards in his zone and around grounds—everyone gave him a thumbs up on that thought! He also stated about watching out for falling “Walnuts—Jim also stated watch out when they fall because when they hit, they hit hard.”

Jonathan-North Grounds Report:

➢ Jonathan brought up with Mike Duffy about getting cameras installed on selected vehicles inside of the landscaping department. His stance is that especially on the dump truck that when it is just the driver and no ground guide present, he is concerned that an accident has a greater chance to happen then if a backup camera could be installed. Jonathan understands both sides of the coin when it comes to installing cameras, but he insists that it’s a worthwhile venture!

Nicholas-Sort Facility Report:

➢ Nicholas still is seeing some contamination with scarp metal ending up in the brush (Landfill) roll-off and cardboard ending up in the scrap metal roll-off. He also mentioned about some crews with more than one person in the vehicle will not get out and ground guide.

Ronnie Herring-Central Dorm Route Report:

➢ Ronnie stated that he had nothing to talk about this month.

Jason Snow-Recycling Operations Supervisor Report:

➢ Talked about volume levels of collection of recyclables increasing in building occupancy. Jason also brought up the early morning hours as staying darker longer and that he see’s movement around the roads and he pointed out that he doesn’t see people wearing High-Vis-Vests to help identify them in the darkness (Pre-dawn hours).
Sonny Beale-Safety Committee Director Report:

➢ Sonny didn’t have much to talk about this month, although he did touch on the social tents and the potential for the composting of all of the “To-Go plates from the various dining halls/food establishments) that are being deposited in the containers at each tent, (Eight of them).

FINAL THOUGHTS:

➢ The entire group brought up both pros and cons on the use of back up cameras. We also came up with that standardized training on a regular basis on how to spot and successfully ground guide someone, should be conducted regularly. A better question might be can we make this a semi-yearly or yearly requirement? Jonathan also brought up the issue of disposable masks not being readily available. Several comments from the group gave options and Sonny stated that masks can be obtained from Sheila at the materials division. Bonnie brought up a point about us spreading the word to keep reporting near misses. Any type of data we collect will help us be safe in the long run. I would also encourage that once both Landscaping and Recycling staff members read this newsletter, please come up to your representatives and talk safety to them. I believe that if we begin the conversation of safety among our two departments my hopes are that we become one voice and one team united to spread the word of safety. Our next Safety Committee meeting will be on the 28th of October (Wed). I would especially like to thank all of the committee members to include their supervisor’s for allowing them to be a part of a safety-oriented department, without support, we cannot stand, communicate or accomplish any of our goals!!

GROUND GUIDING VIDEO TIPS:

➢ Below is a video that I think will give you some basics on ground guiding your driver safely. Remember the important point here is to always check with the driver about what hand signal you’ll be using. In Recycling we have a standard set of signals we use but we also stress “Being in one with the driver on what hand signals works best for him!” Watch and let me know what you think?
TEAMWORK
It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.

LEADERSHIP
The essence of leadership is vision.