

2-21-2017

Dining Services minutes 02/21/2017

Dining Services Working Group

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Dining Services Working Group Meeting Notes-2/21/17

Present: Lisa Harris, T.J. Ross, Clement Loo, Sandy Kill, Brittany Kill, Ed Brands, Tony Nemmers, Janel Mendoza

Lisa shared pictures of the proposed Dining Hall renovations

- Currently in the process of renewing the contract-receive money for improvements when the contract is renewed to keep venues up-to-date. The U is able to pick how we spend the money, but it must be food-related.
- Interior designer put together ideas
 - Cleaning up entryway, cubbies, painting around work stations
 - Tony wants to do the pizza area-add warmer and new warmer lights

Proposed TMC renovations

- Franchise "WoW" (World of Wings)-burgers, salads, wraps
 - Important to keep the TMC name
 - Could do breakfast menu
 - Wouldn't need to get any more equipment to accommodate the menu change
 - Current employees would be doing the same jobs
 - Try to draw more off-campus customers with franchise
 - Menu change would limit daily specials, world food, etc. (would have a much more specific menu)
 - T.J. brought up the concern of "food boredom"-Tony responded they have a marketing plan-will have different specials offered

New C-store location ideas

- In TMC
 - Snacks, Simply-to-Go items
 - Would not lose seating area
 - Have separate entrance
- Indy Hall
 - Front of Indy Hall
 - Be able to have more options with the space
 - More accessible than current location

Smoothie stand in RFC

- Company would provide equipment if we order enough product
- Could it go where the current desk is and share the staff?
 - This would help with staffing costs
- Proposed location might be too loud for Angie's office
- Split commission with RFC
 - RFC could get new carpet & furniture
 - Wouldn't be taking away from current concessions-no overlap on product
 - To-go items would also be available (protein bars, sandwiches, salads)

Green Prairie will be getting a three-compartment sink to allow students to wash items from garden, trees, etc.

- This had originally been a part of the building, but funding ran out

Bids are out for Blakely Hall-once they come in, hoping they can do the ramp in the Dining Hall at the same time-would like to get done this summer

Sandy

- Pretzels, kettle corn-people were happy to have it back

Lisa

- Evo grill in Dining Hall has had good feedback
- During the Dining Hall ramp project, a sign will be put up to show what the end result will look like in order to let people know what the inconvenience and noise is about (especially as large groups of students will be visiting campus for various events)

Ed

- Community of Scholars event-bacon wrapped hot dogs were good (not the healthiest option, but very popular)

Brittany

- Event in Dining Hall yesterday went well-wished they had seating for more than 100 people

Tony

- Evo grill is not able to be balanced as it is made to tilt towards the front. Omelets are done in the back as a result.
 - Can put pans on the grill, but haven't been doing it yet (afraid to burn the bottom of the pans)
 - They are starting to experiment with different foods on the grill
- Dining Hall might be open this summer because of the ramp project
 - Will change the exit to accommodate the project
 - Might be eating off paper plates for a time
- Survey is out-encourage everyone to take it

Clement

- Dining Hall has been very good lately-they have "kicked up their game"

T.J.

- Student satisfaction survey (Dining Hall is included) has seen a consistent positive rating for food-it's important to keep things new and exciting

Please see attached email conversation regarding staffing concerns and nutrition information-proposed RFC smoothie bar



Dining Services Committee comment on staffing issues with the smoothie bar at the RFC

5 messages

Ed Brands <ebrands@morris.umn.edu>

Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 9:32 AM

To: Tony Nemmers <nemme011@morris.umn.edu>, Lisa Harris <harrisl@morris.umn.edu>, Brittany Rose <brittk@morris.umn.edu>, Clement Loo <cloo@morris.umn.edu>, Janel Mendoza <jmendoza@morris.umn.edu>, Sandra Kill <killsk@morris.umn.edu>, TJ Ross <tjross@morris.umn.edu>

Hi Folks--after some more thought about staffing the long-discussed smoothie/healthy snack bar at the RFC, it seems like there could be at least one major problem with having existing RFC staff also run the smoothie/snack bar. My observation as a regular user of that facility is that the staff behind the desk are extremely busy (i.e. with their existing RFC work) during the same times (e.g. noon-1pm, and 4-6pm) when demand for smoothies etc would also probably be high. So I'm not sure that handing it off to RFC staff would necessarily be a good way to go, at least not during the busier times of day.

There could of course be other high demand events (i.e. during swim meets, basketball games, and the like) which may or may not overlap with busy times for the RFC.

Comments above, of course, are based on my own observations (of facility usage) and assumptions (about demand). On the other hand, I don't see any strong evidence that we know what the demand for the smoothie/snack bar would really be. If it is actually going to be pursued, I suggest there would probably need to be some kind of survey to gauge how much interest or business there would be, as well as some inquiries with existing staff to see what their current workload is, whether it is realistic to add more duties, and whether adding a smoothie/snack bar would pose other unforeseen issues. Such information would help evaluate staffing options.

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Lisa Harris <harrisl@morris.umn.edu>

Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 10:29 AM

To: Ed Brands <ebrands@morris.umn.edu>

Cc: Tony Nemmers <nemme011@morris.umn.edu>, Brittany Rose <brittk@morris.umn.edu>, Clement Loo <cloo@morris.umn.edu>, Janel Mendoza <jmendoza@morris.umn.edu>, Sandra Kill <killsk@morris.umn.edu>, TJ Ross <tjross@morris.umn.edu>

Thanks for sharing your thoughts Ed!

High volume times has been discussed. Similar to Highbies...more staff would be needed during those times. Of course there will be some bumps along the way (learning curve).

We've spoken with Wayne and Wayne has met with his building managers. All feel the RFC staff have down or slow times and could help out. The RFC could also financially use the extra revenue.

A survey was also discussed. But, many of the guests and user are there for large events; tournaments, games, camps, etc. So, we wouldn't have their contact information to send out a survey.

Others meeting and conversations have happened with the PE Center Director and Vice Chancellors (Sandy and Bryan).

Nothing has been decided yet. We will keep the group updated as we move forward.

[Quoted text hidden]

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Lisa Harris
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Ed Brands <ebrands@morris.umn.edu> Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 10:52 AM
To: Lisa Harris <harrisl@morris.umn.edu>
Cc: Tony Nemmers <nemme011@morris.umn.edu>, Brittany Rose <brittk@morris.umn.edu>, Clement Loo <cloo@morris.umn.edu>, Janel Mendoza <jmendoza@morris.umn.edu>, Sandra Kill <killsk@morris.umn.edu>, TJ Ross <tjross@morris.umn.edu>

Hi Lisa

A survey of regular RFC users would give you an idea about baseline demand for the smoothie/snack bar. And you can still survey people at large events when they are attending the large events...no it might not be exactly the same people who might make purchases later on once the bar is there, but that's not the point necessarily.

What would also be nice is if the folks (in addition to Wayne) who might actually staff the smoothie bar would be asked what they think.

[Quoted text hidden]

Brittany Rose <brittk@morris.umn.edu> Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 11:07 AM
To: Ed Brands <ebrands@morris.umn.edu>
Cc: Lisa Harris <harrisl@morris.umn.edu>, Tony Nemmers <nemme011@morris.umn.edu>, Clement Loo <cloo@morris.umn.edu>, Janel Mendoza <jmendoza@morris.umn.edu>, Sandra Kill <killsk@morris.umn.edu>, TJ Ross <tjross@morris.umn.edu>

Slightly off topic but Tony, do you have nutritional info for the smoothies? I think that would be beneficial to know, especially if we're trying to determine whether or not they'd be popular.

A survey of RFC members and campus may not be a bad idea...but that's me looking at it as an outsider with no prior knowledge!

Best,
Britt

[Quoted text hidden]

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Brittany Rose
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Tony Nemmers <nemme011@morris.umn.edu> Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 1:02 PM
To: Brittany Rose <brittk@morris.umn.edu>
Cc: Ed Brands <ebrands@morris.umn.edu>, Lisa Harris <harrisl@morris.umn.edu>, Clement Loo <cloo@morris.umn.edu>, Janel Mendoza <jmendoza@morris.umn.edu>, Sandra Kill <killsk@morris.umn.edu>, TJ Ross <tjross@morris.umn.edu>

Yes I can get the nutritional information for the smoothies. I may actually have some- I will look around

Thanks and have a good day!

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