

# City of Brookings

## Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 4:00 PM City & County Government Hall Room 300

*Sustainability Council Members: Bruce Pengra, Cynthia Kunkel, Kyle Jamison, Louis Hesler, Albert Patin, Samuel Krueger, Anthony Shanks, Robin Buterbaugh, Betty Beer, Emily Abele, ~~Kiley Rath~~, and SDSU Student Representative Gabrielle Bolwerk. City Staff: Jacob Meshke Deputy City Manager.*

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by E. Abele

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: L. Hesler

Second: B. Pengra

Aye: All      Opposed: None

### 3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: G. Bolwerk      Second: B. Pengra

Aye: All      Opposed: None

### 4. Open Forum

*At this time, any member of the public may request time on the agenda for an item not listed. Items are not typically scheduled for the end of the meeting; however, very brief announcements of invitations will be allowed at this time.*

### 5. Prairie Seeding Planting Kits – Mia Werger

- A small-scale approach to habitat restoration: Gardening with Native plants - tall grass prairie: within our region it is located primarily in the eastern side of the dakotas. Most of this land has been turned into agricultural and farmland.
- Benefits of Prairie Gardens: habitat, soil, water, climate, saves money by eliminating the need for pesticides, and creates a sense of place.
- Tactic: DIY Prairie Restoration Kit
  - Signs, seed packets, brochures
- Partnered with the Sioux Falls Sustainability coordinator to provide kits for purchase (currently covers roughly a 10'x10' plot)
- Looking to introduce this concept into Brookings.

### 6. City Update

J. Meshke:

- Renewed charging station for addition three years
- Road work and construction continues in Brookings - check the Brookings city website for details and updates.
- Arbor day event went well, handed out 500 trees, and two donated trees were planted in pioneer park. The Urban Forest Initiative is underway (vouchers are currently out)
- Spring cleanup is complete and went well.
- The city is looking into creating a plan for recycling batteries.

A. Patin

- Ongoing work to update the solid waste master plan.
  - Next open session will be June 1st

### 7. Read No Mow May Sign Purchase Email Vote into the Record

E. Abele made a motion to print 50 more signs for the No Mow May Initiative, seconded by A. Patin.

Ayes: S. Krueger, B. Pengra, G. Bolwerk, R. Buterbaugh, A. Shanks, C. Kunkel, K. Rath, B. Beer

Opposed: None

Abstained: L. Hesler

### **8. Discussion and Possible Action on Mayor's Awards Application**

E. Abele: no applications were received last year.

- Updated new application form, broken down into three categories with a simple format designed for applicants to select options and fill in answers.
- Current emphasis is on environmental and energy sustainability.
- Will be made available on the city website, and promoted via a press release

Motion to approve the new and updated sustainability awards nomination format.

Moved: S. Krueger                      Second: G. Bolwerk

Aye: All            Opposed: None

### **9. Discussion and Possible Action on Virtual Meeting Option**

E. Abele: looking into creating the option for virtual meetings. Due to summer plans hindering current members from attending all the meetings.

Feedback from the BSC members: Do not want this to be a primary means to conduct the future meetings, rather it would be used only as an alternative option available upon request by BSC members who are not otherwise able to attend.

Moved: B. Pengra    Second: A. Patin

Aye: All            Opposed: None

### **10. Garden Discovery Event**

R. Buterbaugh

- May 21st at McCrory gardens from 1:00 - 5:00 (set up 12:00)
- Seed packets and banner are ready
- Will send out an email reminder
- Will bring a No Mow May sign to display

### **11. Earth Day Event**

E. Abele

- Earth Day Event went successful at the SDSU campus Union

### **12. Growing Sustainable Communities Conference Update**

Growing sustainability conference: moved from October to April. The BSC will not be sending anyone this year

### **13. Budget Update**

- The BSC has spent roughly \$1,265 on the signs for No Mow May
- Looking for recommendations on how to spend the remaining budget
  - Still have roughly \$4,000
  - Are there other conferences / training to replace the Growing Sustainability Conference for this year?

### **14. Updates/Reports from Subcommittee**

- a. Marketing and Communication

G. Bolwerk: Continued excitement from the community regarding No Mow May Initiative.

b. Climate Action Plan

A. Shanks: Looking to secure funding

B. Pengra: Looking into grants

c. Waste: Open forum will take place on June 1st, addressing e-waste questions

d. Energy: No updates

e. Local Foods: R. Buterbaugh: Good news for the Community food forest: soil tests returned and look good: suitable for planting. Initial site analysis done, amenities, access, etc. potential design underway, enough room for 45-50 trees, areas for mulch, and understory plantings, looking into creating design charrettes and public engagement on design input and planting suggestions. Looking at precedents that also incorporate art, and native context. Looking into signage, GIS maps, plant identification and information resources. Potential for natural playground incorporation: would require additional grants and planning. Initial paths for the food forest would be mowed grass, but could be improved upon over time. Next steps will be to get together with partners to get input and ideas going forward. Will be looking into grants for trees, however may wait till next spring to plant.

**15. Updates from Liaisons**

a. Parks and Recreation Board: No Updates

b. Human Rights Commission: No Updates

**16. Call for Future Agenda Items**

- Nominations for sustainability awards

- Budget discussion

**17. Adjourn**

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: B. Pengra Second: E. Abele

Aye: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted, Samuel Krueger