

# Brookings Sustainability Council Minutes

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 4:00 PM Virtual

Sustainability Council Members: ~~Darcy Green~~, VACANT, Ben Vukovich, Louis Hesler, Albert Patin, Norma Nusz Chandler, Jennifer McLaughlin, Robin Buterbaugh, ~~Betty Beer~~, Emily Abele, and SDSU Student Representative Samuel Krueger. City Staff: Jacob Meshke, Assistant City Manager.

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Add fabric and textile recycling to agenda

Moved for approval: L. Hesler

Second: A. Patin

Aye: All      Opposed: None

## 3. Approval of the Minutes –

Moved: R. Butterbaugh      Second: A. Patin

Aye: All      Opposed: None

## 4. Open Forum – no additions

## 5. Guest Speaker – Jeremy Linstad, Street Manager

Street department now a part of department of works

13 full time staff in department

Teams up with solid waste division and parks and rec

Will be tracking all vehicles for safety and decreased vehicle idle time (Verizon connect system)

Getting new road sensor technology (6<sup>th</sup> st, and Main St) to help use salt/sand – typically use premixed salt and sand 65/35% respectively. Considering wetting the salt/sand on application. Ideally will do a little higher salt.

Use of predictive models to better use salt vs. sand

Stormwater collaboration with storm division: Doing sweeping operations more – adding plug in hybrid version

Manages drainage ponds – to keep clean. Clean all inlets after any storms.

Mosquito control: Did not need last year due to drought. Determine when to use by trap counts. Target the adults when pollinators not as active.

## 6. City Update

- Charging station at City hall: Since January 1, 2021: 188 different users, use for about 490 hours

- Brookings Municipal Utilities exploring options for Level 3 charging near interstate.

- Meeting with Sioux Falls Sustainability Chair: Discussed climate action plan. Mostly doing in house. Did not have consulting help. Have option of touring electronics recycling location. Sioux Falls working on switching over to electric vehicles. They are working on getting some greenhouse gas targets. Working on converting facilities to electric from fossil fuel based.

- Storm water master plan is getting underway. Will be having open houses going forward. Working on floodplain development standards.

- Working on taking on housing studies in the near future to explore the middle options (condos, triplex, townhouses, etc.). Challenging to grow our city with the floodplain.

- Interchange project going well – going with a local company.

## 7. Mayor's Awards Recap: J. McLaughlin reviewed

## 8. Election of Officers

Chair: E. Abele volunteered. Nomination by: R. Buterbaugh      Second: A. Patin

Ayes: All      Opposed: None

Vice-Chair: A. Patin volunteered. Nomination by: R. Buterbaugh      Second: A. Patin

Ayes: All      Opposed: None

Minutes taker: S. Krueger volunteered. Nomination by: R. Buterbaugh      Second: A. Patin

Ayes: All      Opposed: None

Liaison discussion deferred to 2022.

### **9. Rain Garden Signage**

- Estimate from a couple places local ~\$200 – looking into a couple other options. Non-local option about \$2000.
- Will defer official budget decision until 2022 when final cost is determined.

### **10. 2021 Budget Review**

- Have most of budget accounted for.
- \$1600 Brookings Register Ads
- \$1500 Waste reduction
- \$250 Water event

### **11. 2022 Initiatives**

Brainstorming for coming year initiatives:

- Education on climate change/Talking about reducing stigmas from talking about environmental topics
- Working on strategies for and actual climate action plan as a large group and in subcommittees
- Tours for electronic recycling in Sioux Falls for ideas on how to implement similar
- Ongoing communication via social media, etc.
- Sustainability awards – put out earlier to help have more incentive for receiving award
- Work with parks board about other community garden options
- Continue to work with BMU on ways to support the city on renewable energy
- Charging station infrastructure in our city; supporting EVs and hybrids to city fleet.
- EV event: test drive and ask questions of owners
- Think about waste restaurant oil disposal
- Think about plan for composting (state does not have regulations, so cannot do otherwise); maybe use of grocery store waste (appropriate)
- Provide recommendations for city buildings for sustainability purposes – N. Nusz-Chandler states that utilizing LEED building practices are desirable, but getting actual LEED certification is extra expense.

### **12. Fabric and textile recycling**

- Report from a place in Wisconsin. Reach out to Goodwill to see if they use any sources for fabric recycling.
- Put together a quick report for the City. A. Patin (Waste subcommittee) will take on

### **13. Updates/Reports from Subcommittees**

- a. Marketing and Communication: Ads coming soon.
- b. Waste
- c. Energy: Ad coming soon.
- d. Local Foods

### **14. Updates from Liaisons**

- a. Bicycle Committee
- b. Human Rights Commission: Purchasing diversity signs soon. Library hosting Black History Month celebration upcoming.
- c. CLEAR

### **15. Call for Future Agenda Items**

### **16. Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted: E. Abele