

City of Brookings
Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10th, 2025, 4:00 PM Dakota Nature Park

Sustainability Council Members: Anthony Shanks, ~~Louis Hester~~, Albert Patin, Robin Buterbaugh, Emily Abele, Kiley Rath, Kyle Jamison, Conner Evers, ~~Alicia Heich~~, and SDSU Student Representative ~~Madalynn Graham~~, City Staff: Joshua Bauman Assistant Parks, Recreation & Forestry Director

1. Call to Order

T. Shanks

2. Approval of the (Amended) Agenda

Motion to Approve: R. Buterbaugh

Second: E. Abele

Aye: All Opposed: None

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion to Approve: A. Patin

Second: R. Buterbaugh

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. Partnership Program Proposal from Charlie Richter

- Stormwater Incentive Program
 - Rain Garden
 - 3 people signed up
 - SDSU designed three, but timeline for finalized designs didn't allow for opportunity to be implemented, will continue next year
 - Native Plants
 - 25 people got vouchers
 - 12 people back for reimbursements
- Rain Barrels
 - 9 people purchased this year
- Planning to continue this program next year
 - Perhaps lower the minimum threshold to earn reimbursement to make it more accessible..

6. City Update - Josh Bauman

- Mayors Awards
 - Parks Dept. Public Lands Preservation Award: went R. Buterbaugh
- Compost update
 - 5,820 total pounds collected so far
- BSC to go on Tour of Millborn Seeds
 - January 14th
 - C. Richter: Invite BMU? Partner for an incentive program to utilize more resilient, requiring less water grass seed blend.
- New Assistant City Manager - Samantha Beckman
- Brookings Winter Farmers Market - First and Thursday Saturday - 9 - noon - 5th St Gym
- Golf Course Water Sourcing
 - High bids being rejected at the next CC meeting.

7. 5% Pledge - Emily Abele

- E. Abele's husband is working on making a nonprofit "...inspiring and equipping the world's wealthiest [which includes most middle class Americans] to lower their carbon footprints by 5% annually."
 - Encouraging any and everyone to join the pledge.
 - fivepercentpledge.org

8. Update: Budget

- Roughly \$2,000 remaining in the budget.
 - Already approved up to \$2000 for plant material for Community Food Forest.
 - K. Rath: Motion to approve remaining funds after purchase of plant material to be used to purchase more reusable tote bags (Reduce, Refuse, Reuse...) to be given out at events.
 - Second: A. Patin
 - Aye: All
 - Opposed: None

9. Updates/Reports from Subcommittees

a. Education and Outreach

- No Updates.

b. Climate (Biodiversity) - Lead Vacant

- No Updates.

c. Waste

- No Updates.

d. Energy

- No Updates.

e. Local Foods

- No Updates.

10. Updates from Llaisons

- Parks and Recreation Board - Stephen Hartung
 - No updates
- Planning Commission
 - No Updates.
- Historic Preservation (Vacant)
- Local Emergency Planning Commission
 - A. Patin: new city fire dept. chief - reevaluation of emergency contingency plans for companies in Brookings.
- BATA (Vacant)

11. Continuing Items

- Terms expiring: E. Abele, L. Hesler
- SDSU Student Project Ideas

12. Call for Future Agenda Items

13. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: E. Abele

Second: R. Buterbaugh

Aye: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by Kiley Rath.