

City of Brookings Sustainability Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4:00 PM

Attending: Bruce Pengra, Cynthia Kunkel, Kyle Jamison, Louis Hesler, Albert Patin, Anthony Shanks, Robin Buterbaugh, Betty Beer, and Emily Abele.

City Staff: Samantha Beckman, Assistant to the City Manager.

Not present: Samuel Krueger, Kiley Rath, Gabrielle Bolwerk

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion: Bruce
- 2nd: Tony
 - All Yay
 - No Ney

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion: Bruce
- 2nd: Robin
 - All Yay
 - No Ney

4. Open Forum:

- Zeno Wicks
 - No Mo May
 - Cool Idea! Could we fund a study to determine what to mow or what could be planted instead of grass/mowing?

5. City Update

- Sam is officially the Staff Liaison for Sustainability Council.
- Dec 6th is the Mayors Party at the Dakota Bank Center
- The City of Brookings does not test compost for anything
- Stormwater fee is tagged onto property taxes not an individuals water bill
- Finalizing designs on Solar Farm
 - To be completed by the end of 2023
 - Could we introduce Pollinator Plots to the plan? Talk to BMU/City
- John Thompson

- Proposed City Code revision for Floodplain
 - Proposal is 2 ft
 - November is the tentative date for adoption
- Parks Department
 - Introduced Lady Bugs in the downtown flowers
 - Eliminated Aphids without harsh chemicals!
- Kristen Zimmerman
 - No Mo May Proposal for an additional 6.27 Acres to not be mowed
 - What are the requirements to obtain a “Bee City” Certification?
 - Prairie Burn in fall and/or Spring at the Dakota Nature Park
- Solid Waste Master Plan
 - Final review Complete on 8-9-23

6. Community Food Forest

- Nature Park is not the optimal place for the Parks Department
 - Mainly due to Maintenance
- Possibility moving the plan to the Community Gardens (East Side)
 - Would allow room for expansion.
- Potential new bike path closer to the community gardens in the proposal stage
- Need to further discuss with Parks Dept on tilling or burning (Robin)
- Tentative plan is to plant Spring of '24
- Open to the public Summer of '24
- **Proposal:** Follow up with City Officials to determine ownership, timeline, and funding along with tabling the table toppers.
 - **Motion:** Albert
 - **2nd:** Louis
 - All Yay
 - No Ney

7. Discussion and Possible Action on Table Toppers: See above discussion on food forest

8. Updates/Reports from Subcommittees

- a. Marketing and Communication: Will create or publish a post about the lady bugs in item 5
- b. Climate Action Plan: No new updates
- c. Waste: No new updates
- d. Energy: No new updates
- e. Local Foods: No other updates other than food forest as above

9. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Parks and Recreation Board: No new updates
- b. Human Rights Commission: No new updates

10. Call for Future Agenda Items

11. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Shanks