

City of Brookings

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 12, 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: G. Bolwerk

Second: B. Pengra

Aye: All Opposed: None

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: B. Pengra Second: B. Beer

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. City Update

J. Meshke:

- Amended bee ordinance passed by the City Council
- Climate pollution reduction grant: SD opted to not join the program
- Parks Director: scheduled interviews
- Summer registration open for parks and recs activities
- The Landfill is offering free dumping for city residents from April 10-29.
- Working with SDSU to get electric scooters - possibly within the near future
- Re-upping the electric charger located at the city building for another three years.
- Continuing road work and construction, details can be found on the city website.

A. Patin

- Ongoing work to update the solid waste master plan.

6. Solar/Electric Update – Russell Halgerson, Brookings Municipal Utilities

- Brookings Solar Project.
- Efforts underway to introduce more solar energy use within Brookings county.
- MRES purchased 80 acres located southwest of the landfill.
- Construction is planned to start as early as fall 2023, constructing solar panels to produce a minimum of 5 MW's.
- 2025 construction - the energy created from this project will be directly utilized within the city.
- Long term effects of the solar initiative will offset the cost of

electricity within the city.

- The project is set to be operating by the summer of 2025.

7. Read Earth Day Involvement Email Vote Record

E. Abele: Recap of motion passed via email.

8. Discussion and Possible Action on Mayor's Awards

Moved: G. Bolwerk Second: A. Patin

Aye: All Opposed: None

9. Discussion on Earth Day Involvement

E. Abele:

Event to take place Thursday 10-3, BSC will have one booth, featuring No Mow May, Fabric Recycling, EV's, Urban Food Forest, and other initiatives of the BSC.

10. Discussion on Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant.

B. Pengra:

- The city of Brookings is not eligible for the grant.
- Looking into the possibility of partnering with Sioux Falls to secure other grant money.
 - Corresponding with the Sioux Falls sustainability coordinator on this.

11. Discussion on No Mow May

- Signs are available for handout, and are going quickly.
- Article featured in the Register - good community reception.
- RFP for mowing services.
- Keep pushing information on social media - remind people to save signs for next year.

Motion to order 50 more signs

Moved: R. Buterbaugh Second: K. Rath

Aye: All Opposed: None

12. Discussion on Urban Food Forest

R. Buterbaugh:

- Next steps will be soil testing with SD Ag labs (work with parks to pay for the testing)
- Basic designs: pathway, plantings,
- Schedule a community / public input meeting (Summer 2023)
- Continue to keep grants in mind, not able to apply for the grants until soil testings are complete

13. Pollinator Plots – Terry Nemitz, Pheasants Forever

- Looking for ways to partner with the community and city to create pollinator plots within the city.
- Happy to help provide the seeds and manpower.
- Looking at plots of land within the brookings parks, i.e. Sexhaur Park, along Medary and 20th, and Pioneer Park.
- Great community support with the potential to raise money and support.

14. Updates/Reports from Subcommittee

a. Marketing and Communication

K. Rath:

- Putting together adds for earth day, the plan is to make a graphic to share with Sherry about how to get involved in earth day activities in Brookings:
 - Dakota Nature Park Clean Up (April 22, 10am-noon)
 - Downtown Clean Up (Apr 23, 1-3pm)
 - SDSU Earth Day Event (Apr 20,)
 - Maybe talk about the Urban Food Forest and No Mow May
- b. Climate Action Plan
 - A. Shanks:
 - Looking to secure funding
 - c. Waste: No updates
 - d. Energy: No updates
 - e. Local Foods: R. Buterbaugh: No further updates beyond what was covered in the Food Forest initiative.

15. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Parks Commission:
 - R: Buterbaugh attended the last meeting where the commission voted to approve Dakota Nature Park as the site for the Urban Food Forest.
- b. Human Rights Commission: No Updates
- c. CLEAR: No Updates

16. Call for Future Agenda Items

R. Buterbaugh:

- Garden Discovery Festival hosted by McCrory Gardens, Sunday 12:00-5:00 pm May 21st, 2023. Add as an agenda Item for the April meeting.
- Pollinator Packs Program, graduate capstone project, interested in sharing information with the BSC.

17. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: L. Hesler Second: K . Rath

Aye: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted, Samuel Krueger