

Sustainability Council meeting Wednesday, August 12, 2020 by GoToMeeting

Present: Jennifer McLaughlin, Jacob Meshke, Robert McGrath, Betty L Beer, Robin Butterbaugh, Shelly Brandenburger, Mike Lockrem, Paul Peterson, Stephanie Aure

Absent: Anna Barr

Visitor: Lawrence Novotney

A Motion to Approve the Agenda was unanimously passed.

The July, 2020, **Minutes were approved** unanimously. M/Betty L Beer S/Bob McGrath

There was no report from Open Forum

Jacob Meshke's reports:

- **Updates on charging station:** we have had some limited use with the average charge about \$3.00, average charge length is 40 minutes. There are 4 Teslas in town and several other electric cars, no information on cross over cars.
- **Update on buffer yard regulations.** The City has regulated the amount of space between different uses, but developers can shorten the space between housing if they use landscape, not just grass. There are sustainability implications in diversity of plants, and different landscapes can minimize sound better than grass.
- **Recycling:** Plastic bag statistics. Education is important to reduce use of plastic bags. 12.4% of Millenium's loads contain less than 5% of plastic bags. Brookings has less than 2 per cent plastic bags so we are ahead of the curve. The 2 percent in Brookings comes from residential sources. This means education is working. We need to find more ways to encourage residences to not use plastic bags.
- **Budget:** Next year, the City is projecting a 2 percent decrease in revenue from the sales tax. The City has decreased expenses while maintaining the service level. Our budget is now \$4,000, down from \$5,000. We haven't spent our full allocation in past years.
- **Electrify South Dakota:** All states got funds from the Volkswagen suit settlement. Our state is promoting electric trucks. There was lots of red tape for our getting the charging station—we lease ours. The grants under Electrify South Dakota require that we own the station and that we have a 50% match. Jacob recommends that we not go forward with this grant opportunity at this time, and that we wait to see what phase 3 will provide.
- **Bike share:** Our Bike Share Program partner fell through.

Banners, tablecloths: Stephanie reported on Banners with grommets and tablecloths. Allegra charges \$48 for a banner 3 feet by 11 ½ feet. She recommends we look into table cloths too (6 feet = \$182; 8 feet = \$202). Jennifer suggested asking if the fabrics are sustainable. Betty made a motion to go ahead with Allegra and not ask for more bids. Shelly seconded. Motion passed. Stephanie will have a mock up for the next meeting.

Jennifer introduced a Plastic Bag Innovation Challenge contest with a deadline of Sept 14. The timeline may be too soon for us.

Subcommittees:

- Radio ads. Jennifer suggested we time them with social media ads
- Marketing/Communication—no report
- Waste—no report
- Energy—Jacob will talk to campus. The City is undergoing a condition analysis with respect to a LED conversion everywhere. No further information regarding BMU solar, although it was reported that they are holding meetings and that there are future plans for something in their capital plan.
- Local Foods—no report
- Bike/City—Jackie Lanning will report at the next meeting on the bike paths and on storm water,

Future Agenda Items: It was suggested that we add an item to the permanent agenda entitled “future agenda items”. It is hoped that additional agenda items will come in at least 2 weeks prior to a meeting,

New Board Members: The executive committee will review prior applicants before the next meeting. If none are appropriate, then a new call will be made.

Motion to adjourn M: Paul/ S: Shelly Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Betty L Beer, Secretary

Next meeting will be September 9, 2020 at 4:00