

City of Brookings

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 4:00 PM City/County Government Center; Room 300

Sustainability Council Members: Bruce Pengra, Cynthia Kunkel, 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, Assistant City Manager.

1 Call to Order

A. Patin

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Approve: R. Buterbaugh

Second: B. Pengra Aye: All Opposed: None

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved for approval: G. Bolwerk Second: A. Shanks 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.

- N/A

5. No Mow May –UW Stevens Point –Mike Wiza

- “Natural Laws” – Ordinances in place for landscaping
 - Not meant to promote pollinations—but saves species from getting injured from mowing
 - Other communities (Appleton) had problem regaining compliance after June 1st
 - Required to sign-up online or in person at city hall—give out sign for the yard and sign a paper saying property is exempt from law in May.
 - 300 participating households this past year (property owner AND tenant must agree if rented property)
 - Strong social media presence (including featured page on website) helped with success—get community leaders involved and on board with the process

- B. Beer: Josh Johnson—BHS FFA instructor would be a good resource
 - J. Meshke : very doable using Stevens Point resources – just have to speak with other city officials
 - GIS Plotting, track and report the benefit of doing this program (enlist University)
 - R. Buterbaugh, G. Bolwerk, K. Rath volunteer to compile materials
 - B. Beer: Motion to recommend adopting No Mow May and establish a reasonable budget.
 - Second: C. Kunkel Aye: All Opposed: None
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6. City Update - J. Meshke

- TJMaxx going into old JCP
- City EV Charging Station 183 uses
- 20th and 22nd Ave. will close next week—8th and Main to open the end of this week
- New Police Chief starting Aug 22nd, coming from New York.
- New Public Works Director in September
- Bioretention Base—workshop September 15th

7. Sustainability Awards

- Mayors Awards party Thursday December 1st (likely to be at 5:30-7:30 at Swiftel Center)
- B. Beer volunteers to update award application page

8. Updates/Reports from Subcommittees

a. Marketing and Communication

- L. Hesler: 4 months left to put ads into the Register. Increase Social Media efforts
 - G. Bolwerk and K. Rath offer to help
 - Sustainable clothing ad
 - A. Patin will develop bullet points

b. Waste

- Openings on the committee

c. Energy

- Climate Action Plan moving forward. Delegating a project lead/chairman
 - Full group discussion on project lead – next meeting
- House Bill—local solar farm more attainable and profitable for BMU
- EV tax credits
- Trisha Sharan (high school student) has studied Dubuque, IA CAP for Brookings' benchmarks
 - Share on Google Drive

d. Local Foods

- Dusty-Parks director has approved Tasiyagnunpa to plant white sage and other native plants at Dakota Nature Park – display in visitor center
- Propose Community Gardens within the city vs. north of Hwy 14... city does not have manpower for such at this time
- Community Forest Gardens: perennials/fruits/herbs/permaculture... Project Food Forest for resources in our region. Overseen by city volunteers – free to the public – donate to local food giveaways

9. Updates from Liaisons

- N/A

Ben Vukovich resigned.

10. Call for Future Items

- Updates on No Mow May
- Energy subcommittee chair and CAP designated leadership

11. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: R. Buterbaugh. Second: L. Hesler Aye: All Opposed: None

Respectfully Submitted by: Kiley Rath