

Sustainability Council
September 26, 2014

A meeting of the Sustainability Council was held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, September 26, 2014 at Brookings City & County Government Center with the following members present: Norma Nusz Chandler, Holly Tilton Byrne, Paul Peterson, Bob McGrath, Trisha Jackson, Betty Beer, Jane Hegland and Mike Lockrem. Absent: Alvaro Garcia and Ben Kleinjan. Others present included: Shari Thornes and Laurie Carruthers.

Chair Nusz Chandler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. A motion was made by Jackson, seconded by Peterson to approve the agenda. All present voted yes; motion carried. A motion was made by McGrath, seconded by Jackson, to approve August 15, 2014 minutes. All present voted yes; motion carried.

Schedule next meeting. October 31, 2014 at 8:30 am.

Brookings Benchmarks Indicator Project Action Plan. The Brookings Benchmarks Indicator Project Action Plan is scheduled on the October 21 City Council Study Session. Kleinjan will present the Action Plan. The council discussed opportunities and alternate avenues available in Brookings including promotion of the Sustainability Guide. Beer presented a business card design to use while promoting the Sustainability Council and Brookings Benchmarks Project. Beer also suggested implementation of art and garden programs and participation in a Water Summit.

A motion was made by Beer, seconded by Jackson to approve the Brookings Benchmarks Indicator Project Action Plan with the suggested revisions. All present voted yes; motion carried.

Follow-up re: Bicycle Friendly Community. Carruthers advised that Steve Clark sent the Bicycle Friendly Community Report, but there was no score. In order to obtain a score, the City needs to apply to be a Bicycle Friendly Community. One of the categories Brookings is lacking is the major community cycling events. The members discussed the monthly critical mass ride and Community Common Read – Tour de Gardens should qualify in this category. In order to continue the Mayor’s Ride, a group needs to take on the project. Tilton Byrne advised Dakota Rural Action could be a possibility. Carruthers will contact Steve Clark to obtain traffic count numbers for implementing road diets.

2014 Community Common Read Project with Human Rights Committee. Tilton Byrne advised that the Tour de Gardens was well attended (40-50 people) and the attendees had refreshments along the way. The next event is the Compost Workshop at the Library on October 18 from 10am-12pm, and volunteers are needed. They will be present on current city practices, review proper composting, provide tips and tricks for creating black gold and activities for children. October 19 is the Diversity Potluck & Food Drive and Tilton Byrne will be presenting local SD foods.

Report on Plain Green Conference. Hegland reported the Plain Green Conference had approximately 350 attendees, and there has been positive feedback. Jeff Speck presentation on walkability and mixed use was well received. Hegland will have copies of his book for each of the members.

Conference Attendance.

Growing Sustainable Communities – Nusz Chandler and Beer will be attending.

Announcements/Correspondence/Communications/Calendar

- October 7 & 8, 2014 – Growing Sustainable Communities Dubuque Conference
- October 27, 2014 – Presentation by Will Allen author of “The Good Food Revolution”
- November 14 & 15, 2014 – South Dakota Local Foods Conference, Sioux Falls
- *Membership:* Members’ terms were staggered with one, two and three terms when the Council was created on September 15, 2011. Terms for Hegland and McGrath expire on 12/31/14. All are eligible for a full three year term.
- Future topics: Bike racks for BATA buses, bike patrol, East Brookings industry traffic concerns, Plain Green 2015, legislative issues.

Adjourn. A motion was made by Lockrem, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn. All present voted yes; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Submitted by Laurie Carruthers.