

Sustainability Council
June 15, 2016

A meeting of the Sustainability Council was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at Brookings City & County Government Center with the following members present: Holly Tilton Byrne, Nels Granholm, Norma Nusz Chandler, Mike Lockrem, Paul Peterson, Bob McGrath, Betty Beer and Stephanie Aure. Absent: Ben Kleinjan, Jane Hegland, Alvaro Garcia and Riley Larson. Others present included: Shari Thornes, Laurie Carruthers and SDSU Sustainability Intern Jennifer McLaughlin.

Chair Tilton Byrne called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. A motion was made by Lockrem, seconded by Peterson, to approve the agenda. All present voted yes; motion carried.

A motion was made by McGrath, seconded by Granholm, to approve the May 18, 2016 meeting minutes. All present voted yes; motion carried.

Schedule Next Meeting. Carruthers will check with absent members and advise council.

STARS Report. Jennifer McLaughlin, SDSU Sustainability Intern, presented the SDSU STARS Report (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System). Over 700 higher education schools have been rated using the STARS System using the categories: academics, engagement, operations and planning/administration. Four STARS ratings are available (bronze, silver, gold and platinum). SDSU received a bronze rating. The area that presented the most opportunity is engagement. Schools can reapply every year. SDSU plans to reapply in three years and attempt for a silver rating with a key focus on improving engagement. The Council asked McLaughlin to provide ideas for community partnerships to assist with furthering the engagement connection. Ideas discussed include: community gardens, green jobs in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, Camelot gardens and Brookings High School greenhouse. McLaughlin will be in communication with the Council regard engagement connections.

Beer arrived at 3:27 pm.

Earth Day 2017. Earth Day 2017 falls on a Saturday. The Council discussed collaboration with SDSU and Habitat. Possible events include: panel discussion with Dr. Lundgren (bees), Adee Honey Farm, wind energy, aquaponics and dairies; rain barrel giveaway; promote pollinators; measure water quality; nature scavenger hunt; park cleaning day; birding watching and ice cream. Parking could be an issue at the Nature Park, but BATA Bus could shuttle people from the softball fields. An Earth Day subcommittee was formed with Tilton Byrne, Beer and Aure. Tilton Byrne will check if Jennifer McLaughlin would like to join the subcommittee.

Big Sioux River Membership. Granholm will check on membership qualifications and report back at the next meeting.

Discussion Regarding Draft Bylaws. McGrath is concerned that the terms of the bylaws do not equal the members' terms and the long-term commitment of vice chair to chair. Lockrem prefers the continuity of leadership. Thornes cautioned that recruitment and commitment could become an issue. If the expectation is for a three-year commitment, it will be hard to keep members. Additionally, members could not be reappointed and fluctuation may change in the Mayor/Council. A motion was made by Beer, seconded by Nusz Chandler, to delete Section 2.C. (Vice Chair shall succeed to the Chairperson position after two years of service as Vice Chair) and change Section 1 to a one-year term. All present voted yes; motion carried. The revised bylaws will be reviewed in final form at the July meeting.

Booth at Farmer's Market. A one-day table was discussed for the Farmer's Market. The date would need to be event specific and decisions would need to be made regarding materials distributed. Possible events include Mayor's Ride, distribution of milkweed seeds, farm to table block dinner and open streets for walking/biking.

Beer left at 4:35 pm.

Subcommittees.

Green Drinks – Attendees have advised difficulty with the 5:30 pm start time. The Council agreed to move it to 6:00 pm if it works with Wooden Legs' schedule. Since Downtown at Sundown will be occurring the last Thursday in July, the Council agreed to skip that month, but attempt to provide a presence at the event and possibly distribute ice cream.

Heartland Conference – Thornes attended the conference in June in Lincoln, NE. She was impressed with the presentation from the High Plains Regional Climate Center on forecasting data. They encouraged establishing relationships with local climatologists and attending elected officials' conferences. Lincoln has received three-100 year rainfalls in one year and presented on the impact this has made on the city. Additional presentations covered: first dedicated bike lanes in NE (Lincoln), solar fields, renewable energy utility plant that powers a research park, Lincoln School System has a Sustainability Coordinator and one Lincoln high school has installed a geothermal heating/cooling system and it has cut the utility bills in half.

Announcements/Correspondence/Communications/Calendar.

Budget – Thornes reported the Sustainability Council budget has moved from the City Council to the City Clerk. The 2017 funding request is \$5,000, plus funding for an intern. In addition, the Landfill has funds for 2016 and 2017 in the amount of \$1,000 the Sustainability Council may utilize for public education.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm.

Submitted by Laurie Carruthers