



Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2021 – 5:30 PM

1. **Call to Order** - Alan called the meeting to order at about 5:35pm.
 - a) Introductions (Attendance)
 - i. Members: Kelli Juhl, Patricia Scarborough, Tessa LeHaie, Amanda Hill, Dave Holland, Alan Anderson, Garth Wadsworth, Kevin Crosby
 - ii. Absent Members: Jason Phillips, Lysann Zeller, Ria Harper; Ilke Celik, Bryan Mitchell
 - iii. Liaisons: Laura Armstrong (City Council)
 - iv. Guests: (Members of Friends of Rapid City Parks): Bennet ____? , Chris Stover, Marty Stover, Tom O'Dean
 - b) Agenda Review and Approval
 - c) General Public Comments - none
 - d) Presentation from Chris Stover, president of Friends of Rapid City Parks board of directors on planning for 50th Anniversary of the 1972 Rapid City Flood as well as our collective need to sustain and preserve the "Greenway."
 - i. Chris talked about the severity, importance, events, legacy, and personal significance of the June 9, 1972 flood. With climate change and other changes to the watershed another flood of this magnitude is likely to happen again in less than the originally predicted 350 year cycle.
 - ii. He talked about the importance of the greenway and how it provides safety, aesthetics, ecosystem services, recreation, fishing, etc. They are fighting encroachment from development.
 - iii. The namesake for the pathway, Leonard Swanson, was the city Public Works director at the time of the flood who make sure that no houses were rebuilt in the floodway, despite the plans of the federal agencies.
 - iv. The Friends of Rapid City Parks has organized an annual memory walk of the flood since the 41st anniversary. Turnout is 10-60 people with guest speakers. The purpose is to remember lives lost and educate people.
 - v. They want the city to have a large, weeklong, 50th anniversary event. The friends group will organize the memory walk, but others need to do the rest. Ideas include a 5k run, golf tournament, disc golf tournament, educational speakers, etc. Journey Museum and RC Parks department will be involved.
 - vi. They are making a map of items (ex. stairs to nowhere) left behind by the flood. Aerial imagery is available on Avena app.
 - vii. What should the RCSC do? Help organize the 50th anniversary event; do a talk at the event about environmental services; discourage development in the floodplain; and clean up trash near Baken Park.
 - viii. Laura suggested that the city can ask every city committee to be involved in this event in some way.

2. Officers' Reports

- a) Minutes: Patricia made a motion, seconded by Kelly, and approved by all to approve the July 26 minutes approved as prepared by Ria and amended by Alan.
- b) Treasurer: Patricia reported that we still have just under \$1,500. Members are encouraged to continue to suggest beneficial uses for it. We briefly discussed an idea to encourage local greenhouses to install pollinator gardens and provide more native pollinator plants to customers.
- c) Social Media: No update from Amanda.

3. Old Business

- a) Certificates of (re)appointment from the mayor were presented to Kevin, Ria, Tessa, David, and Alan. Alan still has one for Jason too.
- b) Tessa and David received name tags.
- c) BHE Cogeneration and Small Power Production service (Solar) Tariff update (EL21-011): Kevin said that there are no updates since our last meeting. There is another meeting on August 16.
- d) Sustainability Coordinator Position update:
 - i) Patricia, Lysann, Alan, and Kevin prepared a draft justification document and provide it to Laura before her meeting with the mayor. He is "going to consider it."
 - ii) Alan talked to Holly Mier last week about her role in Sioux Falls. They already had a sustainability plan before her position was converted to the Sustainability Manager. Her position description is a fairly good model for what we want here.
 - iii) The Rapid City and Sioux Fall mayors talk every month. Perhaps Holly could suggest that her Mayor TenHaken bring this topic up with Mayor Allender.
 - iv) Laura will talk to city Directors at their retreat next week. See if she could get any of them on board. The Community Development department was just reorganized. Vicky Fisher is interim head.
 - v) We should provide the draft job description to the HR Director, Nick Stroot, when it is complete.
 - vi) Patricia, Lysann, Alan, and Kevin will continue to work on the justification and description documents.
 - vii) Mayor Allender will submit his budget proposal in the next few weeks and it will be finalized by the last week of September.
 - viii) We could ask for a 10-minute slot to give a formal present about this to the City Council. Individual committee members should also directly reach out to city council members about this (and other initiatives).
- e) Awards: Alan needs to coordinate with the Mayor's office and recipient to present the award to EchoWorks soon.

4. New Business

- a) Kevin will send out a Doodle poll about rescheduling a tour of the landfill/MRF.
- b) Alan is working on our annual report to the city council. Send him suggestions of content to include.
- c) City Transit Plan: Dave drafted a letter listing our desires for the transit plan and summarizing their discussion with the consultant. It was provided to the members via

email earlier today. Kevin made a motion to submit the letter with minor typographical revisions. Garth seconded. All in favor. Approved. Dave will put it on our letterhead and Alan will submit it soon.

5. Informational Items

a) Upcoming Meetings & Events

ii The next RCSC meeting on 8/23 will take place remotely via Zoom.

6. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

7. Additional Information

a) www.rapidcitysustainability.com

b) <http://www.rcgov.org/public-meetings/city-committees/standing-committee-on-sustainability-497.html>

c) www.facebook.com/RapidCitySustainability/

Minutes taken by Kevin Crosby.