
Liaisons: Laura Armstrong
Guests: Aaron Flahaut
Absent Members: Kevin Crosby, Garth Wadsworth, Patricia Scarborough, Ilke Celik

Call to Order - 5:34pm

Votes Taken: Minutes from January 24th and February 14th were approved.
Website renewal approved.

Agenda Approval: Lysann approved, Jason seconded - motion carried.

Public Comments / Committee Updates: None

Officers’ Reports
Secretary (Ria): Jan 24 & Feb 14 Minutes - Lysann approved with corrections, Jason seconded - motion carried.

Treasurer (Patricia): Invoice was submitted for the final payment of the bike racks. Website is up for renewal ($200) - Kelli approved, Ria seconded - motion carried.

Social Media: We would like to do introductions again like we did about a year ago and introduce everyone on the committee. Ria will send out a questionnaire.

Old Business
- Earth Day ideas
  - This committee meets every other Thursday, with the next meeting being on 3/10.
  - As a refresh, last year we created a calendar of many different Earth Day events that were going on around the city as well as some events that we created. We suggested movies to watch, small events to attend, etc.
  - Consensus from last year was that it was exhausting and we are going to scale it back.
  - A couple ideas are having a movie at the Elks and having some tabling events there.
  - Planning for City wide cleanup is underway!
    - Thomson Park is the park that the committee takes care of! We will be doing that again. Are there any schedule conflicts for doing the cleanup on April 23rd?
  - Ilke is doing the SDSM&T student poster presentation on April 18th this year.
WDT is still up in question for participation, they should hopefully be done with their new greenhouse around that time! Might be a good weekend to showcase that.

- Earth Day trail challenge went well last year.
- Remaining funds for Earth Day are about $3500.

**Member Vacancies**
- Scott got approved by the mayor to join the committee! Woo! Dave moved up from an alternate.
- Aaron has filled out an application.

**Awards Updates**
- We need to present the award in April.
- Lysann needs about a two week notice to personalize the plaque.

**Website Renewal**
- This got renewed.

**Secretary Position Volunteer - no updates!**

**Sustainability Coordinator Position update**
- Laura and Bill have been working really hard on convincing the Mayor and City Council to add this to the budget in 2023! As well as the Sustainability Committee who has been working on this for about a decade.
- The mayor has agreed to add the position to 2023! Kristen has room in Public Works to create this position with a focus on Solid Waste.
- The Mayor said he would be on board if we can have some tangible goals. We need to create some pillars or goals that this position would be working toward.
- This is a huge step in our community. Once we have a Sustainability Coordinator, we will be able to apply for a lot more grants.
- Scott suggested that maybe each subcommittee can come up with a goal catering to what their group’s focus is.

**Scout Merit Badge Midway**
- Saturday, March 12th from 8am - 12:15pm.
- They will be limiting the class size this year which is good because there is a lot of information that needs to be shared!
- This takes place at the SDSM&T.
- Coordinate with Lysann if you are interested.

**Sustainability Presentation at Stevens High School**
- We got a request from a teacher at Stevens for the RCSC to come give a presentation about pollution.
- We are going to Zoom with the teacher in the next couple of days to finalize details.
- We have about 50 pins and about 65 straws to give away.
- Stevens kids can possibly have the rest of the Earth Day pins and then we can recreate a new pin for this year’s Earth Day Trail Challenge.
- Cathy is going to contact the artist to have a refresh on the design.
- We need to order these fairly soon.

**Youth City Council update**
- A couple years ago we attended their cleanup at Founders Park.
- We want to build a good relationship with them so they know that they know we are receptive.
- It might be a good idea to invite them to our next cleanup!

**Rain Garden at Central High School**
- Would be a great idea to partner with the pollinator group as this project is moving forward.
Having a rain garden and a pollinator garden kind of combine and become the same thing.
Principal has approved it and next step is going to reach out to city hall.
The kids would do the physical work and some of us would be there to kind of oversee.
They already have a pond on site.
It would be an awesome hands-on project for the students to take care of.
There are two ponds on site, one usually dries up and Jason isn’t sure if it’s filtered out or if it evaporates. The pond that is more to the east constantly has water in it.

- **SD VW Mitigation Funds**
  Money has been allocated for the electric vehicle charging stations - four businesses backed out.
  $120,000 - $180,000 has been awarded for each station.

- **Farmers Market**
  Ria has volunteered to be the liaison for the Sustainability Committee.
  Laura is going to be meeting with Elevate on 3/21.
  Their last meeting really just consisted of deciding on doing the Farmers Market in Hill City or not and whether they want to move forward with partnering with Elevate for marketing.

**New Business**
- **ByFusion - ByBlocks**
  Alan has sent this link to Kristen to see if this is an idea that could come to fruition.
  Alan also sent out a link with the agenda to the last meeting if anyone wants to check it out!

- **Green Roofs**
  Jason mentioned a concept that has been developed where a plastic aggregate is used on green roofs instead of concrete.

- **Annual Work Plan – coming up!**

**Informational Items**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Events**
  - March 7th - City Council Meeting, 6:30 PM
  - March 7th & 8th - Stevens HS Class Presentation
  - March 12th - Merit Badge Midway, 8:00 AM – 12:15 PM
  - March 14th - RCSC Regular Meeting, 5:30 PM
  - Farmers Market – Winter Hours - Every Saturday at 9 AM – 12 AM. 245 E. Omaha St., Rapid City

Adjournment - 7:03pm

Minutes submitted by Ria Harper