Meeting Minutes
May 9th, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting – Open to the Public

Members Present: Ria Harper, Alan Anderson, Kelli Juhl, Dave Holland, Lysann Zeller, Cathy Thrash
Liaisons: Laura Armstrong
Guests: Brenda Warren (IDA South Dakota Chapter President)
Absent Members: Garth Wadsworth, Ilke Celik, Jason Phillips, Tessa LaHaie, Daniel Carroll, Patricia Scarborough, Scott Kenner

Call to Order - 5:39pm

Votes Taken: Minutes approved from 4/11
Minutes approved from 4/25
Motion approved to add another $200 to the already approved $150 for Earth Day activities
Motion approved for spending $200 for this year’s pollinator garden and activities
Motion approved to order 50 more pins for the Trail Challenge because they are almost out at Outdoor Campus

Agenda Approval: Approved

Public Comments / Committee Updates:
Reminder to send in the ‘Get to know you’ form to Ria for social media! Reminder email sent.
Ria will be gone for both meetings in June.

Officers’ Reports
Secretary (Ria):
Minutes from 4/11 approved: Lysann motioned, Dave seconded - motion carried
Minutes from 4/25 approved with a minor edit - Lysann motioned, Ria seconded - motion carried
Treasurer (Patricia): $1782.78
Social Media (Ria / Cathy): We have 698 followers on Instagram and 822 followers on Facebook

Old Business
- Earth Day - Earth Day Committee
  - There is a rough estimate of about 175 people that attended the event at the Dahl
  - 15 organizations that tabled
  - We almost broke even (within a couple dollars)
    - Lysann motioned to add another $200 to the already approved $150 for
Earth Day activities
  ■ Kelli seconded the motion - Motion carried

- Thomson Park Cleanup
  ○ We finally got it done!! Woooo! The park was actually pretty clean, but the railroad tracks was where we spent most of our time

- Sustainability Coordinator Position update
  ○ We got news from Public Works that the Sustainability Coordinator position is being tabled until a further time. This doesn’t mean that it’s not going to happen. The department just doesn’t feel that they have the time to dedicate to bring this on.
  ○ City Hall is working on adding a Grant Writer and that should really help with hopefully getting this position to fruition because we will be able to get more grants if we have a Sustainability Coordinator employed by the city
  ○ Kelli had an inquiry about the new mayor that gets elected next year. If they decide that they don’t like the position, can they cut it? Laura explained that Mayor Allender will be working on the 2024 budget (even though 2023 is the end of his term) and he will be handing it to the new mayor in August to be finalized in September.
  ○ Laura’s advice is to make it through the elections in June to see who is on council. Then we can make a strategic plan to move forward.
  ○ Cathy suggested that we keep moving forward as if it is going to happen. We don’t want attitudes to change and momentum to stop.
  ○ Kelli suggested that maybe we get a rough estimate of how many volunteer hours we serve throughout a year and how much money we save the city. How can we quantify this position?
  ○ Dave was asking if we had any talking points on the Sustainability Coordinator. Yes - Alan is going to put it in the Dropbox
  ○ Cathy asked what the top three reasons that we haven’t had one in the ten years that we have been asking?
    ■ The reasons that were brought up were that people don’t know what it is, there isn’t money to bring it on, lack of interest, and the question is often asked: is it important?
  ○ Alan said that they talked to Planning and that department is definitely not ready to take it on, they are putting out fires all day. We want this position to succeed so we have to be careful where we present this.
  ○ Maybe we can talk to Elevate? Their purpose is to grow economic development. Can we build a relationship here?
  ○ Lysann mentioned that we should look at real city issues and offer sustainable solutions and how we can maybe make the city employee’s lives easier
  ○ Cathy mentioned that we should set a deadline for ourselves so that we move forward with a purpose
  ○ It was suggested that we form a committee to help advocate for this position – Alan is going to send out an email to see who is interested

- City Hall update - no update
- Youth City Council update - no update
- Member vacancies
  ○ We are checking to see if there are any new applications
  ○ There are the two current applicants - Aaron and Nicole
    ■ Alan is going to reach out to them and invite them to our meetings!

- Dark Skies
  ○ There is a new subdivision in Red Rocks that went to the city and wanted Dark
Sky lighting (super cool) and they were told that if that’s what they wanted then they would have to do it themselves. It’s not standard for Rapid City so they weren’t willing to do it.

- Dave suggested that someone would need to go out and pick two or three fixtures and present it to the city with cost, maintenance, and where you can get them. To just say ‘I want a dark sky friendly light’ is too vague and not enough details to get support behind that. Someone would need to present how to ‘get’ dark sky friendly lighting.

- Pollinator Garden updates
  - We are going to need to buy a few more pollinator plants for the garden
    - Kelli motioned that we spend up to $200 for the pollinator garden and pollinator week activities - Lysann seconded - motion carried
  - Pollinator week is coming up! We are going to give away the rest of our seeds during pollinator week that are left over from Scare in the Square

- Trail Challenge pins
  - We only had 27 pins left at Outdoor Campus!! Four of those were broken - Lysann is fixing those up!
  - Ria motioned to order 50 more trail challenge pins so that we don’t run out - Cathy seconded - motion carried

- Bike racks
  - Let’s do a giveaway! Lysann is putting together a form that they will need to fill out to apply for the bike rack
  - As a committee, we will choose from those applications

- Awards updates
  - We were looking at a couple different potentials, updates to come.

- Elections are in June
  - Lysann proposed that we move our elections to either September or January so that it better aligns with committee membership appointments in August
  - We are going to amend the bylaws to say that elections will be moved to September

- Meeting at the Ascent Center
  - May 23rd meeting is at the Ascent Center!! Mark your calendars.

New Business

- Farm to School Grants
  - October is National Farm to School Month
  - Applications were due on May 1st and the winners will be announced at the end of summer
  - Let’s keep a close eye on the winners!

Informational Items

- Upcoming Meetings and Events
  - May 16th - City Council Meeting, 6:30pm
  - May 23rd - Sustainability Committee Meeting - in person at the Ascent Center
  - Farmers Market - Every Saturday from 8am - 2pm.
    - 245 E Omaha Street, Rapid City, SD

Adjournment - 7:18pm

Minutes submitted by Ria Harper