Meeting Minutes
May 23rd, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
Zoom Meeting – Open to the Public

Members Present: Ria Harper, Lysann Zeller, Alan Anderson, Cathy Thrash, Patricia Scarborough, Dave Holland
Liaisons:
Guests: Dan Rasby
Absent Members: Garth Wadsworth, Ilke Celik, Jason Phillips, Tessa LaHaie, Daniel Carroll, Kelli Juhl, Scott Kenner

Call to Order - 5:40pm

Votes Taken: Minutes from 5/9/22 approved

Agenda Review and Approval: No action
General Public Comments: None

Officers’ Reports
Secretary (Ria): Minutes from 5/9 approved - Lysann motioned to approve the minutes, Patricia seconded - motion carried.
Treasurer (Patricia): ~$1,233 is the remaining balance of the budget
Social Media (Ria / Cathy): 708 followers on Instagram (+10 from last meeting) and 848 followers on Facebook (+20 from last meeting)

Old Business
- Sustainability Coordinator Position
  - Alan is going to push out an email asking if anyone is willing to form a smaller committee that will focus on the Sustainability Coordinator position’s goals so that when the time comes, we are able to present these goals.
  - We will develop deadlines to help keep ourselves accountable.
  - Dan brought up partnering with Elevate. Lysann explained that there could be opportunity there, but Garth has mentioned that they probably aren’t willing to fund of house the position.
    - Once we get our ducks in a row and ground underneath us, we could maybe reach out to Elevate and other business to ask for their support.
  - We need to get a group together and look at a new approach. How are we going to accomplish this? How are we going to save Rapid City money? How are we going to help solve current problems in the community?
  - Dave mentioned that Fort Collins has ‘Making the City a better place to work’ as one of their sustainability pillars. If you can provide a higher quality place of work, then you will ideally retain the workers and have a positive effect on other things as well.
- **City Hall** - No update
- **Youth City Council** - No update
- **Member Vacancies**
  - Alan is extending an invite to the two applicants that we have to attend some of our meetings so we can meet them.
- **Dark Skies**
  - It was proposed that we have a “lunch and learn” with the Streets Division and IDA + possibly the companies that the City buys fixtures from?
    - Lysann mentioned that there are different ‘fixtures’, there are some that are owned by the State and then some that are owned by the City. Interstate ones and all of the big metal poles on Omaha, etc. are State owned. Any wooden poles are owned by Black Hills Energy. So there are a few stakeholders to consider but let’s start small and see what happens!
  - Dave sent the idea of a lunch and learn out in an email and IDA sounded supportive.
- **Trail Challenge Pins**
  - We ordered 50 more pins! We were running low at the Outdoor Campus.
  - Our sign was taken down (we think one of the employees might have thought that it was over because Cathy found the sign against the building in the back).
  - July 19th is a Public Advocacy Forum for Skyline Wilderness to ensure that the area is preserved and kept clean and beautiful.
- **Pollinator Garden Funding**
  - June 18th is the start of Pollinator Week and we are going to have a table at the Farmers Market to educate and spread awareness!
  - Technically June 20-26 is Pollinator Week, but the community table was already taken that week so we are doing the Saturday before.
  - We will have some wildflower seeds, temporary tattoos, kids activities, bee observation box, prizes, etc. at the table.
  - Lysann has some more fun details about other pollinator gardens around the city that will be shared later!
  - This Wednesday at 3pm a few members are going to meet to plant some of the new plants in the City Hall pollinator garden.
- **Bike Rack Location**
  - Lysann is putting a form together for the application that businesses can fill out.
  - Patricia is going to work on a flyer to help advertise.
  - In case this doesn’t get done in May for bike month, June 3rd is National Biking Day.
- **Award Updates**
  - Patricia is working on this! We are going to shoot for the second City Council meeting in July because the first meeting is the swearing in for the new City Council members and will be too busy.

**Pending items**
- **Rain Garden at Central**
  - Chad Tussing is the contact at Central High School for this and he is leaving the district. He sent an email to Alan and Jason so we aren’t sure about this project moving forward.
- **No Mow May**
  - Dan got some signs that promoted the bees and put some in the elevators at his work.
Meeting at the Ascent Center
  ○ We are going to push this to next month because there was a scheduling conflict.

June Meetings
  ○ Alan and Ria are going to be gone for both of the meetings in June. Patricia and Lysann are going to be holding down the fort!

New Business
  ● WDT Sustainable Food Production System Project
    ○ Bryan Mitchell sent an email explaining a project that they are partnering with Rimrock Church on. They are going to design, install, and support a sustainable food production system that is centered around the work that they’ve done with aquaponics for a missionary group supporting a community in Costa Rica. He is looking to see if RCSC would support part of a student’s cost of their trip over to Costa Rica. Bryan is asking for a $500 sponsorship.
    ○ Let’s look at the logistics and see if this is something that we could even support because it’s an out of country trip. We aren’t sure if we are allowed to allocate our money like that. Before the committee takes action, Alan is going to check with the Mayor’s Office on this.
    ○ Dan mentioned that, if we did end up being able to support this, then the recipient maybe needs to come to a meeting to present and explain what they did and their experiences over there.
    ○ Other questions asked:
      ▪ How would this benefit Rapid City?
      ▪ Does this fit with RCSC’s Mission Statement?
      ▪ Are they going to build one in Rapid City? It’s a large portion of our budget so we need to look at what we are going to utilize our funds for in the future. We need to see how we can get reinvestment for our community.

Informational Items
  ● Upcoming Meetings and Events
    ○ June 6th – City Council Meeting, 6:30PM
    ○ June 13th – Sustainability Committee Meeting – Zoom
    ○ Farmers Market – Every Saturday at 8 AM – 2 PM. 245 E. Omaha St. Rapid City

Adjournment - 7:16pm

Minutes submitted by Ria Harper