Members Present: Alan Anderson, Dave Holland, Lysann Zeller, Kelli Juhl, Ilke Celik, Jason Phillips, Scott Kenner, Cathy Thrash, and Patricia Scarborough
Liasons: Pat Roseland
Guests: Shawn Walters and Olivia Boerger
Absent Members: Tessa LaHaie, Daniel Carroll, Ria Hannon, and Garth Wadsworth

Call to Order - 5:34 pm

Votes Taken:
- Motion to approve 5/23/22, 6/13/22, and 6/27/22 meeting minutes.
- Motion to approve Sustainability Award nomination for Black Hills Solar.
- Motion to retain current slate of officers and continue elections to first meeting in August.
- Motion to authorize signature of chair and submittal of collaboration letter for NSF grant.

Introductions: Members and guests introduced themselves.
General Public Comments: Lysann mentioned an article she read in the Rapid City Journal about the new Badlands Observatory in Quinn, SD, which said the city installed shields on their street lighting to help preserve the night skies – if Quinn can do it, Rapid City can do it!

Officers’ Reports
Secretary (Ria): Motion made by Lysann to approve the 5/23/22 meeting minutes with changes, seconded by Patricia, and approved by all; Motion made by Lysann to approve the 6/13/22 meeting minutes, seconded by Dave, and approved by all; Motion made by Kelli to approve the 6/27/22 meeting minutes, seconded by Patricia, and approved by all.
Treasurer (Patricia): ~1,651.63 technically still remains in this year’s budget based on Patricia’s calculations, but Ria and Cathy still need to submit reimbursement requests for Earth Day (closer to ~$1,233 is estimated to remain); Lysann also has a reimbursement request to submit for $152.06 for pollinator supplies, which would reduce it to around ~$1,080; If anyone has any ideas for how to utilize the remaining budget for 2022, please let Patricia know.
Social Media (Ria / Cathy): After a bit of a gap, Cathy has been posting some current news stories and following some new accounts to get more ideas for content; Please send any ideas to Cathy and help like and share posts; Cathy doesn’t have a budget for boosting any posts at this time, but can work with Alan to get approval for this from the committee, if needed.
Old Business

- **Member Vacancies – New City Council Liaison**
  - There is currently one membership vacancy on the committee. Alan is planning to meet with the new applicants this month. Olivia has the information on how to apply to become a member.
  - Lysann mentioned that multiple members’ terms will be expiring August 1st – Alan will check with those members to see if they want to be reappointed for another term.
  - Pat Roseland (Ward 5) is the new City Council liaison for the committee – welcome Pat! He replaces Laura Armstrong as the committee’s liaison and fills Darla Drew’s spot on the City Council.

- **Pollinator Advocacy/Gardens**
  - The City Hall and Wilson Park pollinator gardens are filling in and looking good, though it hailed last night and Lysann hasn’t had a chance to check for damage.
  - Lysann ordered pollinator signs from Etsy for Wilson Park and will install them soon.
  - Lysann reported the total amount spent on pollinator activities so far is $171.74 (the committee originally approved up to $200 for 2022). Additional funds will not likely be needed unless plants need replaced due to damage.

- **Bike Rack Giveaway**
  - No updates – Lysann has been busy, hopefully next meeting.

- **Awards Updates – Nomination for Black Hills Solar**
  - Dave summarized the award nomination submitted by Patricia. Motion made by Dave to approve the award for Black Hills Solar, seconded by Lysann, and approved by all.
  - Per the direction of the Mayor’s Office, awards are normally to be presented quarterly at City Council meetings in January, April, July, and October, but Alan will check to see if this award can be presented in August or September since there is not enough time now to make arrangements for the July 18th City Council meeting. Once a date is identified, Patricia will check with Sonny Rivers to make sure he is available.
  - Alan and Lysann will coordinate on getting a plaque made at Vanway for the award (the remaining awards are currently stored at the Mayor’s Office).
  - Patricia will work on a press release for the award (examples from past award winners are saved on Dropbox). Darrell Shoemaker can then help to edit and distribute the press release.

- **Sustainability Coordinator Position Subcommittee**
  - Lysann gave a summary of the first subcommittee meeting held last Friday at Murphy’s. It was tentatively decided to give a presentation to the City Council members at their August 15th meeting in an effort to educate them about the need for and benefits of this position. After the presentation, the subcommittee will follow up with individual City Council members to answer questions. The idea is to make the presentation prior to adoption of the 2023 budget in September. The target deadline for the draft presentation is August 1st.
  - Scott talked about his disappointment in the creation of this position getting dropped after being told it was going to be added under Public Works in 2023. It is very important for the future of our community and the city needs to truly consider it.
  - Pat Roseland volunteered to join this subcommittee. Dave will forward the summary email to Pat that was sent out after the last meeting with the presentation outline.
Dave mentioned a podcast he recently listened to with an interview of the Sustainability Coordinator for Tempe, AZ. Some highlights included recommendations for attaching the position to where power lies in the city, not coming up with goals and objectives for the position until having had a chance to meet with division directors and city staff, and engaging Native American populations to adopt engineering/design standards that fit with their cultural heritage.

Kelli suggested the position be created on a temporary basis to help identify goals and objectives. Dave said a consultant could also potentially be hired to do this.

The next subcommittee meeting is Friday, July 22nd at noon at Murphy’s.

- **WDT Sustainable Food Production System Project – Funding Request**
  - Alan will see if Bryan Mitchell is available to speak about the project at a future meeting.
  - No other updates.

- **Elections/Bylaws Change**
  - Per the bylaws, elections are to be held at the first meeting in June. Due to a lack of quorum at both meetings in June, elections have not been held yet.
  - There was also discussion at previous meetings about moving the elections to better align with when members’ terms expire and new members are appointed each August. Accordingly, a draft bylaws change was proposed in writing and sent out with the meeting agenda. Kelli read it for the record: “7. A chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary/treasurer, and social media coordinator will be elected by the Committee at the first June meeting in August every year.” The proposed bylaws change will now be voted on at the next meeting.
  - Lysann clarified that action still needs to be taken on the item of elections since the bylaws change is not yet in effect. Dave then made a motion to retain the current slate of officers and continue the elections to the first meeting in August, seconded by Scott, and approved by all.

**New Business**

- **Collaboration Letter for NSF Grant**
  - Ilke explained that she will be submitting another project to the National Science Foundation and would like to request funds (up to $2,000/year for the next 5 years) to support the committee’s Earth Day events and other activities that engage students. Similar to a previous submission, she needs a standard letter from our committee to prove our collaboration.
  - Alan read the proposed collaboration letter, which states: “If the proposal submitted by Dr. Celik entitled “Career: Sustainable Design Principles for Emerging Photovoltaics” is selected for funding by NSF, it is our intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Broader Impacts section of the project description.”
  - Motion made by Scott to authorize the chair’s signature and submittal of the collaboration letter for the NSF grant, seconded by Patricia, and approved by all.
  - Alan will send a signed copy to Ilke.

- **Open Round Table about Subcommittees and Attendance**
  - A lengthy discussion was held about the possibilities for improving the effectiveness of the subcommittees and meeting attendance, as well as how best to proceed with the
work plan for 2022. Some suggestions included reorganizing the subcommittees, only holding one regular meeting each month and giving flexibility to the subcommittees to meet how/when works best for them, engaging more with city staff, holding a special work session for the annual work plan, meeting less in the summer, having occasional social meetings in addition to or instead of regular meetings, mixing up meetings times, identifying focus areas (i.e. water, air, soil, etc.) instead of subcommittees, and several other ideas.

- The general consensus among committee members was to revitalize the existing subcommittee structure and previous meeting format with the first monthly being dedicated to regular business and the second monthly meeting to subcommittees (with no or very limited regular meeting agenda). Any other changes to the meeting format would likely require an amendment to the committee’s bylaws.

- The next committee meeting on July 25th will primarily be a subcommittee work session to formulate goals and objectives for the annual work plan. Members can also join subcommittees via Zoom (or other means) with the chair of each subcommittee making accommodations as needed.

- Kelli stated she is no longer wanting to serve as chair of the Education/Events/Outreach subcommittee, so Cathy volunteered to serve as chair of this subcommittee for the next meeting.

- During this discussion, Scott expressed his interest in working on water use issues as part of the Sustainable Development subcommittee and Pat asked Scott about the exploratory drilling for gold near Pactola that was recently given preliminary approval by the U.S. Forest Service. A detailed discussion was then also held on this topic and the committee’s interest in protecting source water for Rapid City and all of the Black Hills.
  - Scott was recently appointed to the Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board as a Regional Environmental Interest Representative and will keep this committee apprised of the proceedings.
  - It was also suggested to reach out to Dr. Lilias Jarding with the Clean Water Alliance to have her speak about this at a future meeting.
  - Pat volunteered to join the Sustainable Development subcommittee due to his interest in this and other water issues.

**Informational Items**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Events**
  - July 18th – City Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
  - July 19th – Skyline Wilderness Preservation Meeting @ 6 pm (Minneluzahan Senior Center)
  - July 22nd – Sustainability Coordinator Subcommittee Meeting @ noon (Murphy’s)
  - July 25th – Sustainability Committee Meeting @ 5:30 pm (In person) - Subcommittees
  - Farmers Market – Every Saturday @ 8 am – 2 pm (245 E. Omaha Street)

**Adjournment - 7:38 pm**

**Minutes submitted by Lysann Zeller**