

Energy and Sustainability Task Force meeting minutes July 1st, 2021

Attendees: Casey Lund, Phil Miller, Danielle Dulin, Terry Vair, Jeremiah Robison, Beth Rutt, Travis Hume, Lysle Kreisel, Dr. Mark Goodwin

Minutes: Approved Phil/Jeremiah

Agenda: Approved Jeremiah/Travis

Beth spoke on the origin of the task force and the mission. Phil Miller gave the history of the task force originating from Citizens for Environmental Action going to the board. =

Casey Lund added that they wanted to create an advisory group to city council concerning sustainability. They wanted to provide actionable advice to those who would make a lasting impact on the community.

Beth asked what the group could be doing to better serve the council and the citizenry of Warrensburg.

Casey mentioned that some of the proposed projects are quite long endeavors. It's tough to gauge the success of the task force at this point in time. Noted that education for the community would be a valuable point of emphasis in the short term. Considered a partnership with CEA in order to give them a larger voice.

Danielle- mentioned that the city has representation on those boards. Wondered if the city would commit to making representation with the CEA .

Beth mentioned forming a sustainability committee within the school district and appointing a student to each of the buildings. This committee would focus on student engagement within the community.

On the subject of duplication, the tree board and energy and sustainability group collapsing to become one task force or council was discussed. Tree management is very much environmental - that being the catalyst for the merger.

Casey mentioned Scott Holmberg – program at Gateway expanded to other schools.

Phil- if we were to expand our group and form committees. Such as trees, storm water, energy etc. Have those committees report back to the task force every month. Chair of each committee would be the voting members that report back to the council.

Beth requested that each member send her a subcommittee that they would be interested in pursuing if we were to separate into subcommittees.

Beth mentioned that finding funding for projects would be an important duty of the task force. This could be another subcommittee.

Mentioned Travis and sustainability in farming. Talked about some of his facilities that could be used in an educational format and create a recruitment opportunity.

Beth would like to place an emphasis on more short term projects that would encourage the community and build interest and engagement.

Discussion about CDBG Community Development Block Grants. Danielle mentioned that this was a federal government grant program that has to be used to benefit low to moderate income households. A city like Columbia gets a direct allocation. A city smaller such as ours would have to go through the state of Missouri and request those funds.

Mark Goodwin – Update on Rain Garden and Plan Design

Mark brought a preliminary possible design but mentioned that there are many ways to plant a rain garden.

Showed a scaled drawing of the site and walked members through the drawing. Mark thought that groupings of individual species, separated from each other would benefit the community as they walk by so they can identify plants they may be interested in. Each plant would be labeled and would have an educational component to the rain garden.

Plants are planted based on size and height so that each plant would be visible from the sidewalk. Talked members through the plant list. This list would allow a plant to be in flower at all times. Something would be in flower beginning in May all the way through August. This would create continued visual interest throughout the year.

Mark mentioned that the horticulture club at UCM sells most of the Native plants and that they have in the past done donations. Mark said he would be more than happy to ask the club if they would like to donate plants in the fall to assist with the rain garden. Likely has plants in the greenhouse right now that may potentially be donated.

Beth asked if we can piggy back on the seed order in order to get the plants for this project. He said we could add and we would get plants at wholesale prices. Mark mentioned that there is a limited supply and the supplier sometimes struggles to fulfill their order. Mark said that we would not have to pay shipping because it is a flat fee regardless.

The order will need to be placed in November. Beth asked if we could get a significant number of plants for \$1000. This site is at Maple Grove Turnabout in the southeast corner.

Mark said 300 plants would be a great start. Mark said the only question is how full do you want your garden to be at the beginning. It will fill in naturally over time if you are patient.

Some plants have already been planted and Mark confirmed that those plantings would not interfere and that those plantings are several different plants in each planting.

Recycling update:

Danielle – recycling center is still shut down. Do not intend to reopen the recycling center at that site. Heartland waste is being purchased. Whoever purchases that site will not be willing to do the recycling site for free.

Danielle would like for this task force to ask if there is a need for a community recycling center and then is the city going to pick up the tab, do we charge, do we control access to the site? Recycling options for those that live in apartments.

Heartland charges \$7 a month recycling. We want to provide recycling for everyone in the community who wants to recycle.

Cannot do curbside glass recycling. Ripple glass was encouraged to reach out to HyVee to see if they would be interested in having one of the roll off glass recycling dumpster in the parking lot of HyVee.

Trip to Lee's Summit. Postponed or removed from agenda. They are not opening 100% due to some of the COVID issues.

Gallery discussion:

Act on report. Beth has read through and would like to take out the part about the visit to Lee's Summit. Travis and Lysle moved it on.

Next meeting is August 5th 2021 9:30am.