

Meeting minutes 1/23/23

Meeting called to order at 2:40 pm

Previous minutes approval

- Postponing for next meeting, will approve both sets of minutes

Present:

Todd

Jamie

Mayor Arnold

Dr. Peoples

Karla

Aamna

Paul

Pam

Mayor Arnold and Dr. Peoples

Mayor Arnold

- Moving forward with the walkability and bikeability subcommittee on Traffic Advisory Commission
- Mayor Arnold and David...will attend the subcommittee meetings
- Remember that we're coming up with how to implement Complete Streets plan, what will it cost, and then other considerations
- Joint committee with Green Space, will not have staff attend until we figure out whether an RFP is needed, etc.
- Commissions are outstripping staffing capacity at this time
- Council open to this but does not have full picture;
- Complete Streets is going to be very expensive, can we identify the low-hanging fruits first

Dr. Peoples

- After recs, there is an internal process
- SIUE intern item cannot go on Feb 7th council agenda, not sure the appropriate time
- Staff limitations, exciting to have the intern and the grant
- Where are the collective priorities? Where does this fit into the sustainability plan?
 - Plan includes GHG benchmarking
 - This will give us a snapshot to see where WG is currently so that we can create specific goals
 - Energy is one of highest budget items
 - Internship is great opportunity to teach, but also hiring a consulting firm will cost us a lot of money
 - What does staff commitment look like?
 - Can we be flexible on March timeline?

Mayor Arnold

- Feb 7th, council will be working on strategic plan and setting high level goals; hoping this will help plug in sustainability goals with other commission priorities
- Invited to attend, can join online
- Feb 6th at noon training session on Zoom how to apply for boards and commissions
 - Called the Appointments Project
 - Trying to get more women to apply for boards and commissions

Greenhouse Gas initiative

- Gotten some info from Dr. Lock about cost for program
- Sounds like going to take a little longer, Jamie will reach out to Dr. Lock to see if it can wait until summer or fall

EV Ready ordinance

- For new builds, they require a 240 V dedicated branch circuit
- Will have to take this to the Building Department
- Will share out with minutes

Ongoing programs

- Quick review of what we've been doing annually
 - Tabling and handing out bags again this year
 - WOW
 - Parade
 - Pumpkin Compost
 - Holiday light recycling
- Do we want to do something for Earth Day/Earth Month?
 - Friday Page: share other events going on
 - City Hall sign: create language for each day of Earth Week
- Webster on Wheels
 - Hold off on who would like to be liaison and put in email
 - Paul interested in continuing to be a liaison
 - City covers the insurance, it's a great partnership
 - Would like to see what we could do this year?
 - Education piece
 - Arm signals for bicyclists
 - Share the Road signs, bike lanes
 - Testimonials from some bikers about the bike lanes
 - Quotes on handouts, can read them
 - Public Works helped with bollards
 - Didn't want plastic bottles, so we had big coolers that Todd brought

New Business

Two open spots

Speaker series

- Collaboration with Green Space
- First one is this week on the 26th about Dark Sky
 - Brentwood considering a Dark Sky ordinance based on their presentation
 - Jamie will share in email if anyone can attend
- Can someone pull emails from the survey monkey to reach out and help advertise the session?

Green Dining Alliance

- Jamie and Aamna have been talking about next steps to get our business districts on board
- Probably going to take a year
- Talk to Eric about involving the BDC in this since their purview is all of Webster businesses
 - Create a loose draft and then meet with Eric
 - Good to know who is on the list already and include that with what we present
- How we would designate spending some of the ARPA funding that Sustainability has gotten
 - Covering costs to be in the GDA
 - Potential microgrants to help restaurants cover some costs
- Connect with BDC then bring back to SC in March

Hixson Middle School

- Eric Hayes, three full classes on sustainability
- Invited us to speak to middle schoolers
- Karla, Jamie, Aamna will pull together information to share with the students

Report from Pam

- Charter review advisory board meeting this evening
- Second quarterly report of finances, projecting to come out better than we thought
 - See article in WKT
- Council working on SP, had survey about mission vision and values, got good responses from that
- Made a connection with National League of Cities Sustainability Director
 - Going to attend office hours on Friday 2/3

Report from Todd

- Going to snow tomorrow night!

Next month meeting a week late because of holiday

- Karla move to adjourn
- Paul second