

Burlington Renewable Energy and Conservation (RenEnConse) Committee

Meeting Minutes, 8:30am 2023-2-14, City Council Chambers

Present: Kjrsten Bobb, Jerry Parks, Dick Hoisington, DiAnne Lerud-Chubb, David Ure, Jeff Lionberger, Molly Standard, Dan Wischmeier, Tracy Dunn.

9 of 9 quorum members are present.

Dick moved and DiAnne seconded to approve January 2023 minutes as written. Motion approved.

Old Business

Sustainable Schools

- RenEnConse budget currently available is \$15,821. \$4000 disbursement was approved for payment by City Council, which will reduce our budget balance to \$11,821.
 - \$4000 is scheduled to be disbursed later in February.
- Burlington Community School District agreed to provide space and office equipment and Supervision for an additional person to come along-side Brianne for the SS initiative.
- \$4000 (already approved by City Council) will cover all of our portion of costs for the remainder of this school year, including match required for Brianne and a second person.
- See New Business section of minutes for additional action related to Sustainable Schools Initiative.

New Branding for City of Burlington scheduled for launch Feb-2023

- Once new branding is released, we should be able to incorporate it into a design for a reusable shopping bag for Burlington.

Food Waste Reduction

- Potential opportunities for improvement and/or limitations exist in messaging, public outreach, publication of a directory, composting at Landfill, homeowners composting, stakeholders (e.g. grocery stores), existing food pantries, and manufacturer limitations.
- There may be opportunities suitable for this committee related to three types of initiatives:
 - Keep food from going to waste,
 - Responsible handling for actual waste, and
 - Bio-diesel made from spent cooking oil (that is prohibited from disposal into the sewer system). However spent cooking oil is no longer suitable for food, and

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there are other organizations that regularly pick up this oil and deliver it to companies that process it into Bio-diesel or other products.

- Discussion centered around an effort to match generators of food waste with organizations that distribute it (e.g. food pantries), and
 - Match organizations that distribute it with with people who need it, for example create a list of pantries and publicize it for the Burlington area.
- Dick moved and Tracy seconded that RenEnConse form a small team to investigate and compile a list that includes
 - Givers (e.g. organizations that distribute excess food to food pantries), and
 - Receivers (e.g. organizations that distribute excess food to people who need it.
 - Motion approved, volunteers for this team include **Tracy, DiAnne, and Dan.**
- Additional discussion about the food-waste industry that is currently building infrastructure, and possibility of promoting commercial waste composting.
 - Keep this on the list for future discussions.
- Discussed potential placement of a Recycle Bin owned by Area Recyclers.
 - This large bin is not currently in use, and Area Recyclers is looking for a location where they might be able to utilize it, e.g. possibly in the downtown area.
 - Need to address potential issues and questions and concerns about placement.

Update on electrical charge stations

- See handout (graphs) provided by Jeff during the meeting that show
 - Number of unique drivers using charge stations in 2016-2022: 184 in 2022.
 - Amount of electrical energy provided: 31,192 kWh.
 - Calculation of ~131,000 miles driven with no gasoline.
 - Calculation of ~4,678 gallons of gas saved.
 - Energy usage by station (mWh):
 - Southeastern Community College: ~15mWh
 - City of Burlington: ~8mWh
 - Hy Vee on Agency: ~8mWh

New Business

Sustainable Schools

- Discussion about possibly looking for another school in the area that is willing to provide some or all of the required financial support (match), in addition to office space, office equipment, and Supervision.

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- Kjrsten moved and Dick seconded that the Committee reach out to area schools to determine whether there are other schools interested in the Sustainable Schools initiative. Motion approved.
 - **Dick** will bring handouts to next meeting showing talking-points and pertinent information to share with local schools.
 - An anonymous donor has offered to fund up to \$1000 for Sustainable Schools for the upcoming school year (Sep2023-Jun2024).
 - Discussion about RenEnConse possibly funding \$1000 for the upcoming school year.
- Move Sustainable Schools to New Business for future meetings.

Strategic Planning

- Tracy moved and Dan seconded that our March meeting focus on strategic planning. Motion approved.

Tracy moved and David seconded to adjourn. Motion passed, adjourned at 9:45am.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2023, 8:30am at City Council Chambers.

Submitted by Dick Hoisington, Secretary

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