

**Sustainability Task Force  
Minutes  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Big Lake Council Chambers**

1. Introductions

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Maureen Mossak  | Big Lake Citizen               |
| b. Becky Guthrie   | Big Lake Citizen               |
| c. Corrie Scott    | City of Big Lake               |
| d. Tom Wyatt-Yerka | City of Big Lake/MN Greencorps |

2. MN GreenCorps Member Introduction: Tom Wyatt-Yerka

- a. The City of Big Lake has a Greencorps member serving with them until August 2020. Tom will be helping with sustainability and environmental protection projects around the city, including working with the Sustainability Task Force to plan and promote events. He can be reached via email at [twyatt-yerka@biglakemn.org](mailto:twyatt-yerka@biglakemn.org) or via phone at 730-307-6040 if you have any ideas for projects you'd like to see worked on, or if you have any questions about the program.

3. Summer Clean Up Recap

- a. The four events held in the summer were successful, with the best events in June and July. The largest difficulty came from getting participation from individuals outside of the task force. Members discussed signage, the time of the event, and many other events happening during summer as barriers to getting more involvement. Members decided that having set dates for the clean-ups determined far in advance as well as focusing on recruitment over the winter by attending community events such as the farmers' market will set them up for an even more successful summer clean-up season next year.

4. Fall Clean Up Discussion

- a. Should we host a fall clean up event? We haven't hosted one in the past so we could follow the model of the spring cleanup event held previously.
- b. Becky suggested hosting an after Halloween clean-up event on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- i. Promote on Facebook to clean up neighborhoods from candy wrappers, trash, etc.
1. Just one hour from 4-5pm

2. Can meet at City Hall, or encourage doing on their own and posting photos on FB.
          3. Focus on cleaning up in your own neighborhood.
        - ii. Tom will promote event on Facebook and host kick-off at City Hall on 11.1.19 to distribute bags, etc.
  5. Community Garden Sign Project
    - a. Corrie has been working with Clara and Public Works to plan for a sign to be installed at the Community Gardens.
      - i. Sign would be wood with the outline/text designed by Clara, and then it will be painted by kids and community members.
        1. The group discussed hosting an installation event/ribbon cutting as well as a “painting party” to paint the sign.
6. Gardening 101 Recap
  - a. This year’s gardening 101 program had a handful of participants, but they were challenged by the weather this year.
    - i. There was some difficulty on keeping people engaged for the whole summer, especially if they missed one of the early sessions.
  - b. Another challenge came from only meeting once per month. Sometimes produce would not be able to be harvested because people were unaware that it was ready, or there was not a class hosted during the window that it could be picked.
    - i. Becky suggested meeting once per week at the garden for up-keep. This would be difficult to get a master gardener to attend each week, so the group suggested having a weekly meeting time, but not a formal class each week.
      1. Members also brought up the idea of incorporating educational materials into the garden at either an information station or as part of the sign. This would give people more tools to understand their garden when a master gardener is not able to be there.
  - c. Corrie gauged the group’s availability to meet with the master gardeners to plan the next class. The Gardening 101 Series planning meeting will take place on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the City Council Chambers.
    - i. The group also discussed increasing participation in the program. Having the conversation with the master gardeners now will give more time to promote the event, as well as ensure that it is listed in the spring community education catalog which will be put together in February.

## 7. Social Media Discussion

- a. How should we best use social media? Should we post from the City page or the task force page?
  - i. Group determined use both – repost things from the task force page from the city, but use the city’s page to promote larger events because it has more reach.
  - ii. Tom will also begin posting on social media for a “Sustainability Sunday” post, covering a variety of topics.

## 8. Recruiting Ideas

- a. Family Fun Fest
  - i. Corrie and Tom attended the ECFE Fun Fest on October 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a large attendance and many people stopped by the Parks table to participate in the kids craft and to grab information on city programming, including the sustainability task force.
- b. Farmers Market
  - i. The Winter Farmers’ Market begins on November 16<sup>th</sup> and will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month through April.
  - ii. There is a new time and location this year – it will be from 10am – 1pm at City Hall.
  - iii. This is a great opportunity for members to attend and promote sustainability as well as the task force.
    1. Planning to incorporate themes of sustainability into kids’ crafts – if you have any ideas on this please reach out to Corrie or Tom!

9. The November 12<sup>th</sup> Sustainability Task Force meeting has been cancelled due to conflicts in schedule. *The next meeting is rescheduled for Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers.* This will be a joint meeting with the Master Gardeners to plan for the 2020 Gardening 101 Series.