

BEMIDJI SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, June 12, 2025

City Hall – 317 4th Street NW
3:30 PM



- 1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3) **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**
 - A) May 8, 2025, Sustainability Commission Meeting
- 4) **OLD BUSINESS**
 - B) Work Session for Sustainability Efforts (Jordan)
 - C) GreenStep Cities
 - a. Communicate GreenStep Efforts: Draft Letter for Inclusion in City Newsletter
 - D) MN Climate Adaptation Partnership (Linda)
 - E) Comprehensive Planning
 - a. Other Updates (Anna)
 - b. Local Food Initiatives (Lisa)
 - c. Housing Study (Melissa)
- 5) **NEW BUSINESS**
 - F) APA National Conference (Melissa)
- 6) **ADJOURN**

Bemidji Sustainability Commission
April 10, 2024

Commissioners Attending: Jordan Lutz, Anna Carlson, Lisa Weiskopf, Ken Grantier, Linda Kingery, Charles Biberg, Jo Li

Melissa F, City staff; Audrey Thayer, City Council

Guests Attending: Naomi Carlson, Sami Tran, Elise Monson, John Claud

Chair Jordan Lutz called the meeting to order at 4:01 and invited all present to introduce themselves.

Approval of agenda with addition of changing meeting time and grant update, M/S Linda/Charles, motion carried.

1. New Business:

- a. Earth Day Poster in the drive
 - i. Info center on Northern Township Wastewater Treatment at BSU 4/22 at 7pm
 - ii. [Empower Your Home](#) on 5/1 at 5pm at Beltrami Electric Cooperative
 1. Sustainability Commission to table, also CERTS, HRDC, CCL, OTPC, BEC
 2. Linda will attend meeting 4/16 and be part of promotion
 - iii. Sanford Earth Day Event
 1. Sustainability Commission to table and present; ideas about adding OTPC, BBB, CCL as presenters.
 - ii. Charles creating a [graphic for tabling](#)
- b. Comprehensive Planning
 - i. Anna Carlson reported that the planning team (HRDC + BSU Center for Sustainability) has completed staff Dept Heads interviews, next will interview council members
 - ii. Naomi Carlson, HRDC, shared the plan for picnics in each ward. Mostly for fun, and to hear what people want in their community. Picnics in city parks.
 1. Sustainability Commission welcome to share its initiatives.
 2. How to get people to show up, get their input
 - iii. Planning process includes a survey to gather information from residents. Paper, online with QR code,
 - iv. Anna Carlson, Elise, John Claude and Jeff Ulland meet re asset planning - food, energy, etc.
 - v. Local Foods as an important theme for the planning
 1. Sub-committee met Anna, Lisa, Jaman, Melissa, John Claud,

2. Desire for the city to have a strategic, action oriented [local foods initiative](#).
 3. Several actions identified for food access and local purchasing
 - a. [Grow-er](#) (Canadian Co) - container-based unit for growing produce.
 - b. NDSU students created a similar unit, dba as [Great Plains Greens](#)
 - c. [Freight Farms](#) is another modular growing approach, it also has an online aggregator called Local Line. Lisa will investigate.
 4. Identifying champions to advance these initiatives - be sure to have an ongoing plan.
- c. Meeting time for Sustainability Commission
 - i. M/S by Linda/Lisa to change meeting time to be 3:30 - 5pm on the second Thursday, starting in May 2025,
 - d. Grant to City of Bemidji
 - i. Melissa reported that the city was awarded a grant from MPCA for \$27,000 to planning
 1. EV roadmap, community-wide EV vision statement, advance GreenSteps.
2. M/S by Ken/Anna to adjourn, motion carried.