

**Sustainability Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

**June 10, 2020**

**Meeting location:** Online <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/598525245>

Convened at 5:35

Welcome and introductions

Attendees: Oulette as chair, Triplett, Weeks, Nancy,

Approval of the Agenda

Added topic of transportation at Weeks’ request; Triplett moved, Weeks second, motion approved

Approval of Minutes – not sent; will be sent for next meeting; tabled

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Recycling Center and potential SAC support**

Triplett reporting: fortunate turn in that Center received a PPP grant; payroll maintained, making for a better financial position; $28,000 in bank; closed out grant for foam densifier; still losing money even though cardboard prices are higher; still looking to get a revenue stream from dump fees; Triplett recommends that Committee make a formal recommendation to City Commission to support the Recycling Center; Byers recommends Committee recommend a short and near-term plan in writing; Triplett recommends negotiating with County; Triplett moves and Nancy seconds that City work with County to bring options on how to work together to support the Recycling Center; motion passed

**City and County Pandemic Response**

Byers reported on what City is experiencing – planning on losing approximately $2.5M; ultimate effects are unknown; March impact is -2.5%, which is manageable; City will be furloughing people if effect is significant; currently maintaining hiring and pay freeze, no travel or training; attempting to hold on to reserves due to potential impact from this Fall; Discussion of Crawford County Recovery Task Force; City canceling fireworks show and closing pool primarily for health concerns;

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Grant Opportunities (**[**https://www.farmers.gov/manage/urban/opportunities**](https://www.farmers.gov/manage/urban/opportunities)**)**

Oulette discussed a grant opportunity with the USDA supporting food systems, particularly interested in working with Triplett on aquaponics; there are many grant opportunities to support the interests of the SAC; City is willing to be the applicant and fiscal agent but would need someone else to prepare the grant application; discussion of adding a municipal composting capacity with Committee focusing on educational materials and adding a piece of equipment to help with the composting process; given revenue issues due to the pandemic, matching funds will be difficult to identify; perhaps prepare a grantwriting group to take advantage of the next round of funding

**Update on City’s new Wastewater Treatment Plant**

Tabled

**Gas tax and potential endorsement**

Tabled, with members to discuss at future meetings

**Transportation**

Weeks would like to show electric vehicles; perhaps prepare some demonstrations for next year’s Earth Day; poverty is connected to transportation issues, those who have a car earn more; universal basic mobility is a concept to ensure everyone has the ability to get around; Oulette demonstrated a STRAVA heat map of Pittsburg showing traffic levels by mode of transportation; Byers mentioned that the Active Transportation Advisory Board takes the lead on non-motorized transportation issues and routes; heat maps can be used to inform transportation discussions; City could assimilate the data into its GIS

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Meetings likely to be online for the rest of the summer; City can arrange in-person meeting with distancing if desired

Adjourned at 6:30