



5. Previous Action Items

- a) Ashley reached out to St. Louis School regarding the \$500 donation that the Committee made in September. The school relayed that they are excited to spend the money but haven't spent it yet, it will be towards something in the sustainability realm. Ashley will continue to reach out.
- b) The City's communication team along with the Deputy Clerk have done a few blasts for openings on City Committees, including this one. They will continue to do so, staff resource encouraged the Table to share in their circles that there are openings. If anyone needs step by step on how to apply to the committee, please reach out to the staff resource.
- c) Discussions that there has been no formal decision to spend money on this item. H. Pihulak shared that she had discussed this with the Director of Engineering and Infrastructure and there is support to move forward with signs if the Committee pays for them.

Moved By Craig Debbo, Seconded by Lisa Moncrief, and Carried -

That the staff resource initiate a quote for signs advertising Free Cycle days to be erected permanently at the Transfer Station and to execute the purchase should the cost not exceed \$2,000.00 (two thousand dollars).

- d) Ethan shared information on conversions to fire hydrants that would allow access to drinking water, aligning with item 11 – Provide water bottle filling stations for the community in Kenora's downtown, of the Sustainability Action Plan. Discussions about the public water filling stations that already exist in the community. Another member suggested having a water tank on a trailer that can be moved around for events if needed. Staff will keep these options on their radar should the need for additional water filling stations arise.
- e) This item is scheduled for the March meeting.

6. Community Gardens Discussion

J. Boutwell provided an overview of Harvest Kenora's current operations. Their set up is like a micro farm, as opposed to individuals having their own plots. Members of the community can come at any time and will be met by a garden party facilitator, and they will inform what needs to get done on that day. Once it is time to harvest, all those helping for the day get a share of the harvested items. They have slowly been upscaling their operations to include a tool shed and a 'dug out' made possible by T-Bay and the Community Foundation. E. Beulah shared the process of what occurs with the produce that is harvested that the



volunteers do not take. She added that during COVID they saw an uptake in membership with people having their time liberated and wanting a safe outdoor space to build community.

They continued that their gross operating costs are approximately \$10,000.00 per year but they anticipate this will escalate once adequate labour costs become a concern, ideal operating funds would be closer to 25-30 thousand a year. Discussions about not having the capacity currently to operate a second location and that ideally 75 thousand would be required to start up a new operation.

A Committee member questioned whether J. Boutwell or E. Beulah know of any other communities that are successfully following their current model without relying on free labour. E. Beulah shared she is not aware of any and that most have another source of income to supplement the garden operation, she shared the example of an organization she volunteered at supported by Meals on Wheels.

Rory McMillan arrived at 1:39pm.

E. Beulah shared where they are looking at other revenue streams to support their operations. Discussions about what would benefit J. Boutwell and E. Beulah with respect to support from the Sustainability Advisory Committee, financial contribution to operations or an ongoing partnership would be best. J. Boutwell shared he has spoken with some other local organizations for support in partnership, however they have not found a viable fit. The next need is to grow the membership base. Discussions about their model not operating on a sale basis because the harvest primarily goes to volunteers and volunteers are indeterminate.

Chair Nordlund questioned whether Harvest Kenora could borrow charity numbers from the City; E. Beulah replied that they have been yes, however, there is a bottleneck hold up with the donation cheques not being communicated effectively to Harvest Kenora. Heather shared that she has been speaking with Finance to ensure these processes are better handled, her and Heather to follow up on this item.

Councillor Moncrief offered the suggestion of Harvest Kenora to start reaching out to local businesses to organize donation fundraisers on their behalf.

E. Beulah suggested a sustainability levy for Kenora, which could be minimal but would be supported by the tax base to fund projects such as theirs. She feels strongly that if people really care about sustainable initiatives there needs to be support for it. Councillor Moncrief explained that this committee has a budget that has already been funded by the taxpayer, if there are facts that can support further funds, she has asked them to compile this information and bring it forward to support this ask. J. Boutwell also made note that administrative support, if financial isn't feasible, would be very helpful.



Chair Nordlund explained that the Committee has a budget, and they are exploring ways to utilize it. She thanked J. Boutwell and E. Beulah for coming by to share about their organization and that the Committee will consider this when making budget decisions.

E. Beulah also mentioned that they operate on an incubator type of model and are always looking to integrate new tentacles of their organization into the community.

She shared a story about her program “mini farmers” and her work with children in the community. R. McMillan shared that speaking with the School Board for a partnership would be a great avenue forward, E. Beulah replied that this is on the vision board but does not have the capacity yet.

Staff Resource will circulate Harvest Kenora emails to Committee members, should they need to connect over possible support ideas.

E. Beulah and J. Boutwell left at 2:17pm
C. Debbo left at 2:18pm.

J. Kutz shared that Central Park is not an ideal location for a community garden if that is ever a consideration. He continued that there really isn't enough land and the land that is available does have substantial infrastructure underground that could need to be dug up should anything need to be addressed, which would ruin the gardens.

J. Kurtz and B. Rogerson suggested the 5th Street location as an alternative to discuss for future development. There are currently no plans to develop this lot at this time so it would be a nice option.

J. Kurtz and B. Rogerson left at 2:25pm.

7. Future Conference Possibility

R. McMillan suggested that the Committee facilitate a community plan and to continue to reinforce that seed that we need to set a target.

Discussions on how other organizations are going about their own sustainability initiatives and how we are to partake in that and upkeep that.

Discussions on how to have a presence at other organizations' events such as the upcoming Treaty Three event. Rory made it clear that the intent was not to recreate the plan but to pull people together and reaffirm the plan and build on it and to shed light to all the work individuals are doing.

R. McMillan requested that this item be kept on as a standing item and if nothing to discuss to defer.

Chair Nordlund would also like to discuss how we can increase our presence in the community and how we can participate in forums and avoid the last-minute rush to participate in these events that come up.



8. Budget Decisions

Brief recap of the previous meetings discussions but conversation deferred until a more fulsome table is present to discuss.

Councillor Moncrief came across a funding opportunity called Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund that she wants to utilize towards composting in Kenora, she will circulate with the table. She added that Saskatoon was successful in obtaining this grant in 2023.

Chair Nordlund reminded the Table of the challenges surrounding our current EAC and composting. Councillor Moncrief doesn't think it will be an issue to get a third party involved to support diverting the compost once we have an adequate tonnage to support the cost.

9. Current Action Items

- a) St. Louis School Donation Follow Up
- b) Signage for Free Cycle Days
- c) Staff Resource to circulate Harvest Kenora Emails
- d) Staff Resource to circulate Doodle Poll to determine next meeting date.

10. Next Meeting – TBD – Pending Doodle Poll

Adjourn Meeting – The meeting adjourned at 2:53pm.