

CITY OF OREM
NATURAL RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
April 11, 2019

Place: Development Services Conference Room

At 5:06 p.m.: Darren Hawkins called the meeting to order

Those present: Sarah Bateman, Darren Hawkins and Quinn Mecham, Natural Resources Stewardship Committee members; Jenna Albers, Long Range Planner; Sam Lentz, City Council member; Gwen Bateman, Intern and Cheryl Vargas, Minutes Secretary

Those excused: Brandon Hoffmann, Natural Resources Stewardship Committee member

Erin Lyons was thanked for her service on the Natural Resources Stewardship Committee (NRSC). She will be missed.

1. Anti-Idling Ordinance and House Bill 411 on clean energy – Mr. Hawkins

Mr. Hawkins said the Natural Resources Stewardship Committee (NRSC) discussed the possibility of an anti-idling ordinance several months ago. Mr. Kirkham drafted an ordinance when he worked for the City and took it to his supervisor, Jason Bench. Mr. Bench wanted to know what other cities did about enforcement of their anti-idling ordinances. Mr. Hawkins researched that and reported back. The Utah State Legislature just passed a bill that an anti-idling ordinance can be enforced after one warning. This is a new Utah law. Holladay City does not enforce their ordinance, but uses the ordinance as an educational tool, City to citizen, neighbor to neighbor. Mr. Hawkins found that other communities have not enforced their ordinances but still have found it useful.

Mr. Hawkins said he would like Ms. Albers' view on this subject. Ms. Albers said she had just received a complaint from a resident about a truck that was idling for twelve hours to keep a refrigerator running. She thinks an anti-idling ordinance is a great idea. She thinks that helping people understand when they are dropping the kids off at school, taking the educational approach and by making it more of a positive thing, people will be more willing to be a part of it. She is on-board with taking an ordinance through the proper channels.

Mr. Hawkins said one of Mr. Kirkham's concerns was what happens when complaints come in, will the police be swamped. He asked Holladay's mayor about that and he said they have invited that person to be involved in the educational process. Ms. Bateman said she presented at UVU's Environmental Ethics Symposium and shared about the idling research that was done at Geneva elementary. She is willing to package the plan so other schools can participate if they want. She is trying to make it easy for a local champion at each school. Mr. Mecham said it is a good idea and something he will support and he hopes the City Council will support it as well. It is primarily educational, a small move in an awareness shift and will be helpful.

Mr. Lentz said the ordinance should be framed as educational and not burden the police and add to their call volume. The goal is not to send patrols out. Sgt. Paraskeva, Neighborhood Preservation Unit (NPU), would be the best contact to represent this and how it would impact the work the NRSC does. Mr. Hawkins will forward Ms. Albers the document Mr. Kirkham drafted and she can take it forward.

HB 411, the Community Renewable Energy Act was signed by the governor. It enables any community that wants to be able to work with Rocky Mountain Power and gives businesses and residents the option of buying renewable sourced energy in the future. Each municipality or county has to decide if they want to opt-in if they want to participate by December 31, 2019. Then each community or individual within that group can opt-out with no fee for three months. After three months, they can still opt-out, but there will be a fee.

Mr. Lentz said renewable sourced energy does cost more. Mr. Hawkins said the ball is in the court of the Public Services Commission (PSC). They have to decide what it means, what it costs, etc. Ms. Bateman asked if the City of Orem were interested in signing up for this and how would that process work. The city has to write an ordinance and pass it before December 31st. Mr. Mecham said it sounds like there needs to be more analysis done and to assess what the pros and cons are. He does not think the benefits are known but the NRSC is likely in a good place to start

looking at it and to launch the conversation. Mr. Hawkins said this is a process and it is just the beginning. This will be a consistent agenda item.

Mr. Lentz said research on the current state of things right now needs to be done. How many residents have solar, what percentage of Rocky Mountain Power is coal versus other sources. Can it be established that there is a problem that needs to be solved. Ms. Albers asked if Rocky Mountain Power has the capacity to supply all who opt-in. Ms. Bateman said the goal is one-hundred percent renewable energy sources by 2030 so capital can be obtained to build the necessary infrastructure. Mr. Hawkins said the first step is to see what the PSC does.

2. Social Media Update– Mr. Hoffmann

Mr. Hawkins submitted an idea for a post that did phenomenally well. It got three hundred likes and fifty comments. It was a picture of Tara, she suffers from a debilitating auto-immune disease. It was a photo of her sitting in her wheelchair, planting her feet in the earth and looking up at the sky, enjoying the warmth of the sun. The post was about the healing properties of nature. More posts need to be like this with a real person, families outside, etc.

Ms. Bateman said it is Earth Month if we want to post about that, like planting a garden or riding a bike.

3. Orem Centennial and Summerfest - discussion of about participation - booth, survey, social media campaign, 2D youth art gallery – Ms. Bateman

Ms. Bateman asked what the NRSC wants to do for the booth at the Centennial Party and Summerfest. She thought they could do a survey. One idea was since Orem's Centennial party is after the Earth Day art contest, a mini-gallery could be set up in the booth of all the applicants. The winner will already be posted. Maybe students that did not make the deadline for the contest but would still like to have their art displayed at the Centennial party, could be included. Mr. Hawkins said kid-friendly activities seem to be popular at these events.

Mr. Lentz said the State has a trade-in program for trading in gas mowers for a large discount on an electric mower. There could be a sample/demo of what they are trading their gas mower in for.

4. New Committee member suggestions

Ms. Albers said the NRSC needs to decide what they want, but there needs to be a new round of applications for a new Committee member. If anyone knows someone who would be interested, let her know. Mr. Hawkins said it could be advertised at the Centennial party booth as well.

NRSC Action: Ms. Bateman moved to nominate Mr. Hawkins as Chair of the Natural Resources Stewardship Committee. Mr. Mecham seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Darren Hawkins and Quinn Mecham. The motion passed unanimously.

NRSC Action: Mr. Hawkins moved to nominate Mr. Mecham as Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Stewardship Committee. Ms. Bateman seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Darren Hawkins and Quinn Mecham. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming local events:

April 1-May 18 - Orem Spring Clean Up (locations rotate weekly)

April 13 - Free Utah County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event - Provo Towne Center – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 13 – College Connector Trail! – Carterville Park (2400 N Carterville Road, Provo) Saturday, April 13 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

April 22 - Free "Earth Day" compost at TransJordan landfill - pick-up only

April 27 - Gas-to-electric lawnmower/trimmer exchange event - State Department of Environmental Quality - see website for details

May 2 - Natural Resources Stewardship Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

May 4 - Orem Centennial Celebration, University Place, 5:00-9:00 p.m. (NRSC booth)

May 25 - Central Utah Water Conservancy District "Wise Wizards"

August 26-28 – 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, Salt Palace. The theme is "Building Inclusive and Sustainable Communities." (<https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/slc-conference>)

Other:

April 22 - Earth Day

April 26 - Arbor Day

May - National Bike Month

May 11 - International Migratory Bird Day

May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity

The next NRSC meeting will be May 2, 2019.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Hawkins moved to approve the March 7, 2019 minutes. Mr. Mecham seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Darren Hawkins and Quinn Mecham. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn: Mr. Hawkins moved to adjourn. Ms. Bateman seconded the motion. Those voting aye: Sarah Bateman, Darren Hawkins and Quinn Mecham. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourned: 5:52 p.m.

Darren Hawkins, Chair

Approved: August 1, 2019