

# GreenStep Cities

## April 25, 2020

**Present:** Gwen Roden, Leslie MacKenzie, Mark and Patty Kraske, Anne Reich, John Goodfellow, Kitsi Vadheim, Nancy Cosgriff, John Goodfellow, Greg Johnson, Juanita Ikuta, Valoree Dowell

### 1. Welcome and check-in

Thanks to the forest committee for the tree planting. Appreciation for River Radio and Kristina's story about the prairie restoration project in Jackson Meadows. Welcome to first-time attendee Juanita. Appreciation for the Zoom coffee groups and the Zoom exercise classes on Monday and Friday mornings. Appreciation for the store and for customers and the support it provides to local small businesses.

**Issue:** Greg just heard about Solar on Schools legislation. He will look for more information that may tie in with some of our proposed work plans.

**Issue:** Another year without events for the General Store puts them in difficult financial situation. The store is a vital service to community members and to other local small businesses. There is a good story to be told about the interconnectedness of that business and other local businesses.

2. **Goals for this Meeting:** Refine workplans for proposed projects to fulfill GreenStep Cities best practices that fit our community. Which ones will we bring to the joint Council-Committee meeting.

### 3. Review the Proposed GreenStep Workplans

These are plans that we will be offering to the Town Council for consideration at the joint working session. We want to provide them with OPTIONS. Is this plan one that we could/should forward? Does it need any additional work? Are there any additional plans that should be incorporated under that topical area?

- **Step 4** – Step 4 is setting up a reporting process that allows the town to understand where it is at right now. Improvement is a continual process. We are measuring baselines in the core areas and 3 additional areas of our choosing. Some of this measurement will be automated; some can be done monthly or quarterly or yearly. We can choose. **REVISE** to explain more about the nature of this project in terms of timeline.
- **EV/Transit** – All workplans will move forward.
- **Energy** – All workplans approved
  - a. **Drone:** Extended discussion about the drone energy leakage project. This needs to be developed more. Add in a communications plan, demonstrate the kinds of results people will see. Explain the benefit of this approach. Look more closely at the results that other communities obtained. **REVISE**
  - b. **Solar:** Greg will send links to the school solar program. Chisago has been very successful about accomplishing solar – lots of info on them.

- **Local Food** – Workplans approved but considerable conversation about a few issues. **REVISE**
  - a. Do we actually need an ordinance? Look more closely at their proposed ordinance.
  - b. How a “community” asset would be defined.

Jackson Meadow has a community garden, but only for the people in Jackson Meadow. Will that fulfill the “checkbox” of local food? Do we want – and is there a desire for – a community garden for people who don’t live in Jackson Meadow but who have too much shade in their yard to garden? (Those folks who live in the woods.) We may need to survey people to see if there is interest.

The Forest Committee has talked about a “distributed community orchard.” Is it a community orchard if the trees are on private property and private owners “own” the fruit? Also the issue of deer and bear damage. Distributed trees mean every homeowner needs to protect their trees themselves. In a community orchard, all trees together could be fenced.

- **Resilience** – Workplans approved but municipal plan should include mention of CERT training and plan implementation, and assistance in creating the municipal plan. **REVISE**
- **Natural Resources** – All workplans approved (noted that Jackson Meadow has a lights-out policy at 11 pm and was designed with no street lights for dark-night-sky.)
- **Active Living/Social Connection** – Big thumbs up for the Marine Explorers Club idea but revise to make activities more appropriate for distancing. **REVISE**
- **Business Development** – Nancy pointed out that the 4 areas covered in our comprehensive plan are the River, Green Space, Community and History. The current business development workplan touches on the river and greenspace, but not the other two. She wondered if the historic signage project should be included. Leslie suggested it could be a second workplan. Anne offered to take a look at this. The Business workplans will be **reviewed at the next meeting.**

## Next Meeting: May 9, 9 am

### Next meeting AGENDA

1. Workplan Review
  - **Business Development** workplan
  - **Waste workplan** – Gwen or John will submit
  - **Communications workplan**
  - Any workplans that required additional input
2. Planning for our **joint working session** with the Council. What do we need in place to make it a really effective session?