

BIKE PATH LIGHTING COMMITTEE MINUTES

City of Rapid City, South Dakota

C/SAC – 1ST Floor Community Room

7:30 A.M., Tuesday, September 20, 2011

John Brewer called the meeting to order at 7:30 A.M. with the following individuals present: Charity Doyle, Captain Karl Jegeris, Lt. Peter Ragnone, Officer Ryan Phillips, Dan Tribby, Ross McKie, Kip Harrington, Barb Garcia and Sharlene Mitchell

Brewer advised that the purpose of the meeting is to explore the possibility of private sector funding for the Bike Path lighting project. Brewer requested input on the development of a private sector fund raising campaign, identification of the fund raising approach and financial goal and determination of the private sector interest in and support for the project.

Officer Ryan Phillips provided a brief presentation on the bike path lighting project highlighting the benefits of improved safety, visibility, quality of life and increased use of the bike path. Phillips advised that the project would promote the use of sustainable green energy noting that the project would extend from Fifth Street east to Roosevelt Park. Phillips advised that Black Hills Power and Gen Pro have volunteered in-kind services to install the 66 poles and solar lights and in-house and voluntary services have been offered to prepare the engineering study. Phillips advised that Dale Tech is working with FEMA regarding the floodplain issues.

In response to McKie, Jegeris addressed the relocation of the transient population away from the bike path areas. Brewer addressed the positive impact on public safety resulting from the policing efforts and the brush cleanup along Rapid Creek.

Phillips recommended that the project be completed in one project noting the possibility to complete the project in phases. Discussion followed regarding the availability of in-kind installation services should the project be completed in phases. Jegeris addressed the scope of the initial project proposal noting that the project has been substantially reduced. Doyle voiced support for a single phase project.

In response to a question, Garcia addressed the continual decreases in federal funding noting that Block Grant funds cannot be utilized due to the inability to verify the low income benefit. Garcia recommended submitting applications to several grant programs including the Vurcurevich Foundation. Garcia indicated that she would approach the Vurcurevich Foundation regarding accepting donations on a "pass through" basis to insure donors can declare a tax deduction for the donation. Discussion followed regarding the status of the Federal Transportation bill and the impact to the enhancement grant portion of that bill.

Doyle recommended selling individual lights with a plaque placed on the light to recognizing the donor. Discussion continued regarding the campaign period and the cost per light. McKie advised that public appeal for the project would be enhanced by a private/public partnership. Doyle advised that she would work with the Finance Office to identify the available public funding. Brewer recommended that the project be shared \$230,000 private funding, \$200,000 public funding with a \$3,500 per light private donation. Discussion followed regarding individuals to chair the fund raising project, the campaign kickoff and potential partners and organizations that would participate in the project financially. Phillips encouraged making the bike path lighting a community project.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.