



Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Monday May 1, 2024

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.. Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) members present were Angela Hawse, Joyce Huang, Dana Ivers, David Kehmeier, Ken Mihelich, Dave Jones and Terry Schuyler. Town Manager, Preston Neill was also present.

2. Update regarding Green Street Park Master Plan

Preston informed the Board that the first public meeting, held at the Decker Room, had approximately 40 people from the community in attendance, along with consultants from Superbloom. He said a survey was released and will be available for the community to complete through May 10th. Superbloom will prepare design concepts at the next public meeting in June based on the results from the survey and the first public meeting.

Terry provided the history of the DOLA funded microgrid planning grant that was awarded to SMPA. He explained that the current size of the proposed system provided for in the planning grant was chosen to meet two purposes:

- a. To provide battery charging for the microgrid to extend the 4- hour targeted back up power provided by the microgrid battery.
- b. To provide as much locally generated renewable energy as possible to meet the goals of the Town Council and the Sustainability Advisory Board as well as the goals of the Town's Master Plan and Climate Action Plan

He said that the proposed solar system design includes 721 PV panels rated at 590 Watts per panel. This size of solar array would produce enough clean renewable solar energy to power approximately 78 Ridgway residential homes, or enough solar energy to provide all the Town of Ridgway municipal electrical accounts plus another 15 homes.

The Board discussed other options on how to utilize solar panels in the park to help with visual impact while still providing the desired renewable solar energy. They expressed their concern that the public is not fully educated on how a full solar array would benefit the community. It was suggested that Mayor Clark do a presentation at the next public meeting outlining the benefit and answering questions. Terry agreed to work with Mayor Clark on the presentation if needed.

Preston recommended that the SAB prepare a letter to Superbloom outlining the Boards recommendation for the solar array in the Park Master Plan. The Board unanimously agreed they would like 100% (721 PV solar panels), but not less than 80% of the solar panels that the SMPA grant proposed be included in the Master Plan. Dave Jones volunteered to draft a letter and distribute it to the Board for edits prior to sending it to Superbloom.

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3. Discussion regarding idling vehicles

Preston explained that the Town currently has an education campaign in place, which includes a banner displayed in Town Park, that encourages people not to leave their vehicles idling. He noted that currently there is not a Town ordinance prohibiting vehicles from idling within Town limits. He explained that it would be very difficult to enforce such an ordinance.

The Board agreed that they would like an ordinance put in place that limits the amount of time a vehicle can sit idling and that signs are placed around town informing people of the idling requirement. Dana volunteered to go before Town Council to express the Boards support of adopting an ordinance that would prohibit vehicles from idling within Town limits.

4. Additions to the Agenda

a) Turf Replacement Program

Preston informed the Board that the Town received a grant from The Sonoran Institute for technical assistance for the Ridgway Turf Replacement Project. The project was created from the Water Smart Action Plan that was developed last fall from a workshop that Town staff attended. The project consists of taking out all the turf on the east side of Hartwell Park and replacing it with drought resistant water smart plantings. The Town plans to issue an RFP within the next couple of weeks to have companies bid on the project.

b) Building Code Updates

Dave Jones explained that the Town is currently following the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The Town intends to adopt the 2021 or 2024 IECC and model electric ready and solar ready code by 2024. He explained that EcoAction Partners (EAP) is in the process of applying for the Colorado Energy Office Energy Code Adoption & Enforcement Grant Program and is asking that the Town or Ridgway agree to be a part of the cohort to help with meeting our jurisdiction's energy code adoption needs. He noted that this is a collaborative regional program that would assist in providing adoption, training, and implementation assistance for local governments, however, it would delay the adoption of the new codes until 2025. He asked if the Board would be in favor of supporting EAP applying for this grant. All Board members were in favor.

Dave suggested that the SAB and possibly SMPA, develop a document that would be distributed to builders to educate them on changes to the new code, the benefits of the change. The intent would be to prepare builders for the new building codes prior to adoption in 2025. Preston was in favor of the SAB and or SMPA developing a statement for builders and asked that he review any documentation prior to distribution to builders. There was also a suggestion that the SAB hold a workshop for builders in the area informing them of the new code requirements for solar and electric ready homes.



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- c) The Board discussed the need to formalize a process to present action items to the Town Council. They requested that processes be developed at the next regular SAB meeting. It was also suggested that a list of items be compiled at the end of each SAB meeting, that outlines topics the Board is working on.

- 5. **Approval of minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting.**

Dana made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024 meeting. David Kehmeier seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by all members present.

- 6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 6:55 p.m.