

**Sustainability Task Force  
Minutes  
March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Big Lake Council Chambers**

1. Introductions
  - a. Task Force members present: Heather Kuikka, Klara Porath, Kristi DeCamillis, Becky Guthrie, and Corrie Scott
  - b. Task Force members absent: Linda Fuhrman, Chrysi Skrypec, Maureen Mossak, and Lisa Odens.
  
2. Lake Clean Up Day Recap
  - a. The February 24<sup>th</sup> Lake Clean Up Day was cancelled due to high winds and large amounts of snow on the lake. The backup date on March 10<sup>th</sup> was also cancelled due to a snow storm. There is a new reschedule date for March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1-3pm at Lakeside Park. Depending on weather, the group might just stay on the perimeter of the lake. Corrie updated the information on the advertising platforms.
  
3. Spring-Fall Clean Up
  - a. Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm
  - b. Meet at City Hall and clean up Eagle Lake Road
  - c. Heather will provide lemonade and Corrie will ask Coborn's to provide cookies
  - d. Corrie will provide plastic gloves, garbage bags, and a few garbage grabbers. Volunteers will be encouraged to dress for the weather and bring garbage grabbers if they have them.
  - e. The group will keep recycling and garbage separate.
  - f. At the next meeting the group will talk about putting together a Summer Clean Up event.
  
4. Earth Day Discussion
  - a. Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019
  - b. At the April meeting the group will discuss specific Facebook posts regarding sustainability for Earth Day. Examples that were brought up at the February meeting include posting a scavenger hunt/checklist and encouraging Facebook users to post pictures of them picking up garbage.
  
5. Fix It Clinic
  - a. May 4<sup>th</sup> from 11am – 1pm
  - b. Corrie will reach out to Big Lake Schools to see if they have any interested students to volunteer for the Fix It Clinic in robotics and STEM classes.

## 6. Community Garden Classes

- a. Target Audience: Main focus will be on families, but individuals will also be able to register. There will be a maximum of 25 participants or 1 master gardener per family. The plot will be shared by the entire group. Participants can sample some of the food after harvest and the rest will be donated to the Big Lake Food Shelf. The plot will be located in the corner and be fenced off so that the students don't disturb the neighboring plots.
- b. Subject Matter: The classes will be called Gardening 101 and include subject matter such as vegetable gardening, flower gardening, pollinators, watering, weeding, harvesting, and identifying diseases and invasive insects. The Master Gardeners will decide the exact subject matter for each class.
- c. Date & Frequency: The Community Garden classes will take place once a month at 6pm on select Tuesdays including June 4th, July 9th, August 6th, September 17<sup>th</sup>. In the case of inclement weather, the backup dates will take place the following Wednesday. If the weather is exceptionally bad, we will try to meet inside the Community Room. Corrie will check for availability.
- d. Equipment: The City will provide up to two 10'x20' plots for the classes. The participants will be encouraged to bring their own gloves, cultivator, and trowel. The volunteers and City will provide a few of these things that participants can borrow.
- e. Maintenance: The participants will be expected to maintain their Community Garden Class plot. The Sustainability Task Force will check on the gardens weekly to see if they are being watered and weeded. If the Task Force notices any insects or diseases, they can notify the Master Gardeners or Corrie Scott.
- f. Marketing and Registration: Corrie will work with Community Education to get the Community Garden Classes on their website. She will also post it on the City advertising platforms. The marketing will include verbiage letting registrants know that they need to commit to the entirety of the season. Corrie will take in and compile registrations.
- g. Next Meeting: Corrie will work on getting the Master Gardeners, Sustainability Task Force and Public Works Director together to talk about treatment for the weeds at the Community Garden site, equipment storage, adding picnic tables near the gardens, compost/mulch, and what Public Works does to prepare the gardens. Heather offered for her husband to chemically treat the weeds in the Community Garden. Corrie will see if Mike will allow chemical treatments.

## 7. Recruiting Ideas

- a. ECFE in the Park will take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 10am-12pm at various parks throughout Big Lake. This is an opportunity to set up a booth and offer free kids activities while handing out information on the group. Corrie will send out a signup sheet for those that want to set up a booth at this event once the locations and themes are finalized.

- b. Farmers Market will take place from 3-7pm every Wednesday from June to August and 3-6pm in September. Corrie will send out a signup sheet for those that want to set up a booth at the next meeting.
  - c. Theatre in the Park will take place July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at Lakeside Park. The event will consist of free kids' activities from 6-7pm and a performance on water conservation and recycling by Climb Theatre at 7pm. Corrie will send out a signup sheet for those that want to set up a booth when it gets closer to summer.
8. Next meeting scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm