

SUSTAINABLE GALLUP BOARD (SGB) MINUTES
Mayor's Conference Room, March 7, 2016

Members Present: Jo Ann Benenati, Bill Bright (BB), Gerald O'Hara (GO), Betsy Windisch (BW); Elizabeth Barriga—liaison (EB).

Members Absent: Chris Chavez, Shirlene Rogers.

Guests Present: Al Abeita (AA), Shafiq Chaudhary (SC), Tommy Flores, Yogash Kumar (YK), Allan Landavazo (AL), Richard Matzke (RM), Rebecca Murphy, Patrick O'Malley, Joe Schaller (JS). AL arrived at 3:35; AA, AL, YK left at 4:00.

BB convened the meeting at 3:07 with a quorum present.

Item A: BB welcomed attendees and introductions were made.

Item B: Agenda was reviewed. GO pointed out that wording of the Environmental Surcharge Tax was not included. EB will email information she has to board members, for discussion at April meeting.

Item C: There were no announcements

Item L: Item L was discussed next, to allow AA, AL and YK to leave after discussion. AA presented and reviewed Article V of the Gallup City Charter, "Recall, Initiative and Referendum." This is in reference to having a referendum regarding curbside recycling placed on the March 14, 2017 city election ballot. There is no provision in the Charter for the city council to do an initiative on its own. In order to make the council do something, voters can do an initiative, which requires circulation of a petition. 793 valid signatures would be required. City council can act on the petition alone, or call for an election within 30 days, unless there is an election scheduled within 60 days. AA recommends the committee of petitioners meet with him and the city attorney to clarify wording and requirements before commencing with the petition. BB clarified that this would not be taken on by the SGB, but by some other established group, or any five citizens composing the committee of petitioners. GO questioned, what if there were two competing initiatives on the ballot and both passed, one with more votes than the other? AA did not have an answer, but said he could look into that and respond via email. YK stated that he is in favor of implementing a curbside recycling program, but voted against it at the 2/23/16 city council meeting because he wants the customers to decide. He would also like to see a sliding scale based on recycling market prices and cost to city. There will be an additional cost to the election to add this item to the ballot.

Item D: Minutes of 2/1/16 were reviewed. BW moved to approve as presented, BB seconded; all voted yes.

Item E: BB presented suggested bylaws changes, recommended by SGB at 2/1/16 meeting, to Mayor McKinney. Mayor will discuss changes with city attorney. SGB is not responsible for Section 2-1-2-B.

Item F: BB presented recommendations for added SGB member to mayor. Mayor received without comment.

Item G: BB presented Annual Report to mayor. Mayor received without comment.

Item H: Regarding the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, upon further review BB discovered that it is relevant to cities with a population of 50,000 or more. Since this is not relevant to Gallup, he did not follow up on presenting it to the mayor.

Item I: EB relayed information that Vince Tovar has resigned from employment with the city and the city is advertising for his replacement. At the 2/23/16 city council meeting, the council voted to accept staff recommendations for expanding the current recycling drop off program. City staff are working on job descriptions for hiring additional personnel to staff the drop off sites. McKinley Citizens Recycling Council has recommended later hours for the drop off sites to be open. SC has developed a survey, at the request of Billy Moore, to be completed by recyclers as they come to the drop off sites. This is to determine where participants are coming from. BW stressed the need for training and a clear description of the positions. She suggests looking at what other cities in the state have in place. She also suggests hiring veterans and others interested in part time work, rather than fewer full time employees, to help address the situation when an employee is absent. EB announced that the Water Commons Drought Contingency Plan grant application has changed direction to a national distribution grant. The city's energy audit is in the data gathering phase. GO recommended putting the recycling bin locations on the city's website for access by guests to the city. EB announced the dates for the Water Festival have changed to May 10 at Gallup Middle School and May 11 at Red Rock Park.

Item J: RM reported initial screenings of proposals for the solar park have been completed and the top two chosen. They will be interviewed within the next two weeks. JS questioned what the cost to users would be to implement the solar energy project. This information is not yet available.

Item K: BB asked who would be interested in attending Open Meetings Act trainings. Response was, it depends where and when.

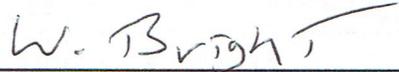
Next meeting will be 4/4/16 at 3 pm in the Mayor's Conference Room. Meeting adjourned at 4:51.

ATTEST:


Ann Benenati, Secretary

Approved

4/4/16


William (Bill) Bright, Chairperson