

## **SUSTAINABLE GALLUP BOARD (SGB) MINUTES** **Virtual Zoom Meeting, Jan. 4, 2021**

**Quorum - Members Present:** Bill Bright, Tracy Lassiter

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Barriga-Liaison; Gerald O'Hara – Board Member

**Guests:** John Wheeler, Rodd Cayton-Gallup *Independent*

Items A-D were addressed; agenda approved by Bill Bright and Tracy Lassiter

Item E: Meeting minutes from the Dec. 7, 2020 were not available for approval.

Item F: Interest Cap Bill. Discussion about the bill proposed by Think New Mexico to put a cap on the interest charged by what some, including Think New Mexico, call predatory lenders. Tracy shared a virtual copy of Think New Mexico's report with the attendees and Bill stated he had hard copies to share. Patty Lundstrom promoted this policy as well. SGB supports this measure although it's pertinence to sustainability is more economic and for the well-being of the local community than it is environmental.

Item G: Environmental surcharge Tax – this body still wants to know what the funds are used for and to have a say in how the money is spent. John Wheeler says he doesn't know how it's used and hadn't been advised he could use it. SGB needs to follow up with Mary Ann Ustick to make sure this item remains on the city's agenda. This board still hasn't been able to secure a meeting with her to get the basics before it can make recommendations or draft a resolution for the council to vote on, however.

Item H: Gallup Solar Park – Bill is fielding questions from people about why the photovoltaic panels don't turn – the city doesn't seem to be getting the full value from the array of the panels don't move with the sun. The city can't make the repairs itself as it doesn't own the equipment. The company (Game Changers) in California, who are the subcontractors, need to come out. Matt Egolf from the golf course offered to fly a drone over the area, but COVID issues and drone problems have prevented this from happening so far. Bill stated if citizens let us know about the problems like this, then that's helpful documentation to send to the company. John W. said he himself saw 5 rows that morning facing the wrong direction. The problem in Gallup has to do with irradiation. The city has to track the amount of sun, which is currently at or just below 70%. If that rate is under 90%, we cannot enforce the contract with the company. It may be the low radiation rate has to do with this past summer's wildfires in Arizona, cloudy days, whether the panels are being cleaned as they should be. The city doesn't have the time and the personnel to go out to the solar farm every day. All of this being the case, the generation output is tracking close to expectations.

On a relate matter, John reported the Allison substation will be finished by the end of June 2022. It will be totally new and it won't disrupt the power from the solar farm. It can handle two other stations' power, which is part of the reason the city opted for it.

Item I: Recycling Council Meeting focused largely on a plan to support the hospital workers. Tracy couldn't report much as she didn't attend the full MCRC meeting due to other responsibilities.

Item J: There was no KG CAB report as Elizabeth wasn't in attendance at this meeting.

Items K & L: Bill mentioned that it was time for the committee to work on the annual meeting notice and report in order to comport with OMA. Bill would draft the report based on the minutes posted on the city's website and circulate for the committee's input.

Item M: Based on Al Abeita's query in response to the SGB's ideas around supporting the predatory lending bill, the SGB will look for new models and/or definitions of other advisory boards to expand its responsibilities and areas of focus. That is, since the board members feel economic issues are a kind of sustainability issue, it will look for other organizations or bylaw models that broaden the definition and their communities roles in the hopes of expanding its opportunities to make positive change in the Gallup community.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm. The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 1, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Date Approved March 17, 2021

W. Bright  
William Bright, Chairperson

ATTEST: Tracy Lassiter  
Tracy Lassiter, Secretary