

Sustainable Gallup Board Meeting – Jan. 6, 2020

Quorum - Members Present: Bill Bright, Gerald O'Hara, Tracy Lassiter, Elizabeth Barriga-Liaison
Guests: Steve Storz, Jenny Tamminga, Jeff Kiely, Christina Tsosie

Items A-B were addressed; the board had quorum as all members were present. *Bill* stated that, unless there was any objection, he would prepare the board's annual report. Hearing no objection, the committee proceeded to Item E, Previous Minutes Approval. All were approved. *Elizabeth* will forward them to Al Abeita for posting on the city website. Annual report will be posted there, too, once *Bill* completes it.

Item F: Recycling Update: *Steve* had questions about recycling certain items, which *Gerald* answered on behalf of the MCRC. For instance, *Steve* was curious whether foil items like Cliff Bar wrappers could be recycled; *Gerald* reported that if it remains wadded up, then it can be recycled. Another guest inquired about TerraCycle, whether recycling in our area really mean items were sent for repurposing (not just buried in a landfill, as commonly believed), and why Gallup hasn't banned plastic bags. *Tracy* addressed those questions, citing her experience here and in Pennsylvania with TerraCycle and she cited information from the city website about the results of the city's plastic bag survey (that discussion has not made it to the city council agenda for a vote, but more than 70% of Gallup residents favor the ban). *Gerald* and *Bill* addressed her other questions about the current market for recyclables and *Billy Moore's* recent presentation to the SGB.

Discussion then moved to Item G: Review of NM HB 440 and its options for Gallup/McKinley County. *Bill* explained that it's an opportunity because it enables municipalities and communities a chance to create a pool of money to help lower-income families get solar installations. However, some of this access is complicated for those homeowners under current Freddie Mac/Fannie May housing terms.

With respect to the "On Bill" energy saving options (Item H), the board decided to bring up this option for low-income customers with the new slate of city council and mayoral candidates. As of the meeting, the nominations were still open, so who to approach remained incomplete for a few more days.

Tracy shared with the group the New Mexico Climate Task Force news from the governor's office, suggesting that it was a source to follow for news, upcoming meeting topics, potential legislation to track, and possible speakers to invite to a meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm. The next meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2020 at 3:30-5:00pm

Date Approved February 3, 2020

W. Bright
William Bright, Chairperson

ATTEST: Tracy Lassiter
Tracy Lassiter, Secretary