

## Whitehall Sustainability Committee (WSC)

### Minutes

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Meeting was held at the Borden conference room. Attendees: Chuck Buus, Nick Hensleigh, Tom Harrington, Jeannie Ferris, Allissa Christensen, Liz Pullman, Lindsey Graham, Kristi Wilson, Hannah Nieskens, and Eric Seidensticker.

Liz P. called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm. Introductions were made. May meeting minutes were approved.

1. **Pending applications:** – The Town of Whitehall playground application scoring has been completed and project is being passed to Barrick for review and input.
2. **Project Presentation:** – Lindsey Graham with the Jefferson Local development Corporation (JLDC) did a power point presentation on a proposed childcare facility in Whitehall. Discussions and comments are listed below.
  - a. The proposed facility would be a new modular building located on school property adjacent to the old gymnasium next to the elementary school. The school board supports the use of the property and approved the project concept moving forward. The JLDC and school are working jointly on funding opportunities to complete the estimated \$750K - \$850K project cost.
  - b. Funding for the project will be from a variety of sources. Biggest expense will be the building that is estimated in the \$600K - \$700K range (\$75 - \$150/ square foot) that would include transport and setup. The Jefferson County Recovery Act funding has a potential \$40,000 available this year and could be increased with the current county budgeting process that is ongoing for the new fiscal year starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. The county is accepting letters of support from the public for recommendations on potential funding allocations and Hannah N. provided a copy of the letter she submitted to the county that could be a guide for committee members to use. There is a state infrastructure grant that is available and will be awarded in July and could support infrastructure needs that is being prepared for submission. Potential funding from Northwestern Energy, Washington Foundation and other sources are being pursued. The requested amount through the Sustainability Committee will be in the \$300K - \$400K range.
  - c. There was a lot of discussion about the benefits and impacts to the community that weren't in the slides that needs to be included to better help the Barrick funders understand the importance of the project to the community. Include demographic data, economic development impact to local employment (estimated five childcare spaces equals one fulltime employment position), describe long term longevity of the project, detailed funding plan with potential sources, and other items that support the need for expanded community childcare.
  - d. The facility would be owned by the school. They would act as the facility landlord and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a provider to operate the childcare program.
  - e. Discussed doing a preliminary presentation to a Barrick representative next week to get input and then score the project at the next Sustainability Committee meeting and discuss formal project submittal based on the scoring outcome.
3. **Other Items** – Discussed the need for a quorum at the next meeting for scoring since some committee members will have to be recused from the project evaluation due to conflict of interest.

Adjourn 2:17pm. Next meeting will be July 13, 2022, at 1:00 pm at the Borden's Conference room.