



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING AMENDED AGENDA

April 22, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

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**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Meeting Minutes Approval**

- 1.** Approval of Minutes from the Committee's March 12, 2025, Special Meeting - ***action item***

**Old/Unfinished Business**

- 2.** Presentation by Meredith Todd, Sustainability Director for the City of McCall
- 3.** Continue Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Chapters and their Relation to Sustainability Using Matrix
- 4.** Discuss and Determine if a Sandpoint Bear Study by High School Student is a Project the Committee Finds Meets the Criteria of Committee Guidelines - ***action item***

**New Business**

- 5.** Discuss/Choose New Regular Meeting Time - ***action item***

**General Announcements/Comments**

**Adjourn**

### **Public Participation Options and Information**

Before the meeting, comment in writing: Email [cityclerk@sandpointidaho.gov](mailto:cityclerk@sandpointidaho.gov) or deliver to City Hall.  
Attend in person: See above for meeting location. Seating available on first-come, first-served basis.  
Attend remotely: Register at <https://www.sandpointidaho.gov/meetings>.  
After the meeting, view the recording on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/CityofSandpoint>.  
For questions or requests for special accommodation: At least 48 hours prior to the meeting, send a message to the email address above or call (208) 263-3310



## SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

### Call to Order

Chair Wayne Benner called the special meeting of the Sandpoint Sustainability Committee to order at 12:35pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

### Roll Call

#### PRESENT

Wayne Benner, Chair  
Christine Moon  
Deborah Dickerson  
Diana Duke

#### ABSENT

Katrina Pielli, Vice Chair  
Mary Wilkosz

Also present were staff liaison Katie Keeney and board clerk Samantha Branscome.

### Meeting Minutes Approval

1. The minutes from the February 25, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

Motion made by Duke, Seconded by Dickerson.

Voting Yea: Benner, Moon, Dickerson, Duke

### Old/Unfinished Business

2. Review and Recommend Updated Sustainability Definition for the Comprehensive Plan

The Committee reviewed the definition of "sustainability" as found in Appendix B of the Sandpoint 2024 Comprehensive Plan. After a discussion, a motion was made to amend the definition and recommend to City Council.

Motion: Recommend to City Council to consider the changes to the definition of "sustainability" in the Comprehensive Plan as amended by this committee, as follows: "A continuing process of social and economic development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs and aspirations of future generations based on principles that assure good stewardship of resources and responsible outcomes relative to the community and the built and natural environments."

Motion made by Dickerson, Seconded by Duke.

Voting Yea: Benner, Moon, Dickerson, Duke

Motion passed.

3. Discuss Comprehensive Plan Chapters and their Relation to Sustainability

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The Committee discussed their strategy for identifying priorities as they walk through the City's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Moon suggested keeping a long-term goal of potentially creating a Sustainability Plan for the City in mind as the Committee continues to discuss their priorities.

Following this discussion, the Committee read through the items on the Comprehensive Plan matrix, created by Ms. Pielli, and eliminated items that are not top priorities at this time. The Committee discussed the possibility of creating a subcommittee to work on this project.

**New Business - none**

**Roundtable**

Ms. Moon provided a brief introduction to Meredith Todd, Sustainability Planner at the City of McCall, who the Committee will hear from at their next regularly scheduled meeting. Chair Benner and staff liaison Katie Keeney noted a local high school student expressed interest in working with the city on a school project, which the Committee plans to discuss at their next meeting.

**Adjourn**

With no further business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59pm.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that these minutes, prepared by the board clerk, were approved by the Committee during their meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Benner, Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Samantha Branscome, Board Clerk

Submitted on Tue, 02/25/2025 - 9:16 AM

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**First Name**

Sebastian

**Last Name**

Moon

**Question/Comment**

Hello! My name is Sebastian Moon, and I am doing a project for school. My project is addressing our bear problem in a nonlethal and permanent matter (that does not include relocation because bears have insane natural GPSs and relocation of bears does not work). I have many ideas, ones that I am fully willing to step up and support if need be, including

A) Initiative to encourage residents and tourists to not feed bears. I read about a campaign in Mammoth, California that was basically just helping residents and tourists to not feed the bears ("Don't Feed Our Bears"), and it was a hugely successful step in addressing the town's bear problem, as most issues are caused by humans. By feeding bears, we have slowly taught them not to be scared of humans. When we stop or scale back the feeding of bears, they lose that need to be friendly to humans. Win-win!

B) Bear-proof dumpsters and cans. Bears primarily eat from dumps, dumpsters, and trash cans. By disallowing access to such things, bears are forced to return to their natural diet.

C). Non-lethal scare tactics. Non-lethal ammo is everywhere, and bears are highly intelligent animals. They can be trained, so by using non-lethal scare tactics, we can instill a bear's natural fear of humans. Such tactics include shouting really loud, cherry bombs, rubber bullets, bats (to bang on trees or dumpsters), firecrackers, etc., etc.

These all sound very far-fetched, but seem to work extremely well.

D). A well-trained wildlife specialist. We are a town full of wildlife. It makes sense to have someone on the scene who knows more than just 'shoot it'. Is that a little over-generalizing and crass? Yes. Is it true? Absolutely. Police are trained to deal with real dangers, dangers that happen to be people. They are clueless when it comes to anything else. That is not their fault, but the fault of their training. Yet, the issue could be solved with two or three on-call wildlife specialists who know exactly what to do in a situation. Be it a bear broken into a cabin on Schweitzer, or a deer hit by a truck.

There are many other ways to deal with our 'problem bears'. Yes, maybe it may be more expensive than just shooting them, but bears procreate few and far-between. A return to natural diets, and a newfound fear of humans will help so much more in the long run. In

the end, there is not an ounce of fault laying on the bear's shoulders, but rather upon the people's who taught the bear what was acceptable and what wasn't.

kindest regards,  
-Sebastian Moon.

**From:** sebastian

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 12:33 PM

**Subject:** Re: School Project re: Bears

Hello again! Sorry for the sudden email change. I go to Forrest Bird Charter School, and I'm in ninth grade. My project aims to persuade the city of Sandpoint to do more about the issues we have with bears in an effective and long term manner. I emailed the Waste Management department because I wanted to discuss what could be done for the bears regarding our garbage disposal. Our garbage cans and dumpsters make it far too easy for a bear to open and pig out on our trash. I have a few ideas on how to help this issue, though, and addressing the feeding of bears is the first step in my process, which will culminate in a better situation for us and our bear population. I'm very sorry if I was unclear. Either way, I'd love to discuss my ideas and the practical ways they can be implemented. Other helpful information would be things such as,

- What is the Waste Management Department already doing to address the problem of bears and trash?
- What would be the cost to the city and the residents to replace every single city-issued garbage can, dumpster, and other trash receptacle?
- How many tons of garbage does the city of Sandpoint throw away daily/weekly/monthly/yearly? How much of that is food garbage (if known)?

Thank you again!

-Sebastian Moon.