KRELF – March meeting

Monday, March 14

In attendance: Sam Forstag, Max Nelson, Brian Kerns, Kaden Harrison, Peter McDonough, Abby Huseth, Meredith Repke

Absent: Beckie Christiaens, Robin Saha, Shelby Weigland, Dennis Daneke, Caelan Simeon

Sam moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Max seconded.

1. Updates on project proposals

-We have one official submission from Steve Thompson. Another submission from the recreation center is in the works.

-We are expecting an Eco-Rep proposal.

-Sam is putting together a proposal for his capstone project.

-Residence life is planning to submit a proposal to expand their recycling program.

-The food systems working group is planning to submit a proposal.

-Brian is working on a smart meter proposal.

-Reminder that the committee voted to pre-approve Eva’s submission at the February meeting. Following the Feb meeting, she submitted a formal application and Meredith/Beckie subsequently released funds (Brian added that the AmeriCorps person these funds were used to hire has started their role).

2. Website update

-To follow up on the conversation from the February meeting, Meredith investigated the mechanism that is supposed to ensure building managers are aware of projects others submit. The feature is supposed to work by requesting the submitter enter an email address for the building manager, staff member, etc. after the application is submitted (so you won’t find this email request prompt if you look at the application). Meredith spoke with Eva about the function and Eva said she was asked for an email address and entered her own, but then never received an email. Meredith spoke to Spectral Fusion (web design group) and they speculated it was user error. \*Update: Meredith tested feature by submitting a test proposal. The feature did not appear to function properly. She will continue to follow up with Spectral Fusion on this issue.

3. Financial update

-$89,290 is available to us to fund projects this year (this is after the sustainability coordinator wages, large project reserve, and KRELF marketing expenses have been removed). No more than 25% of this can go towards ‘plausible energy savings and/or resource conservation’ (grants).

-Sam moved to approve this number.

-Max seconded.

-Vote was unanimous.

5. Brian brought up the issue of grants and loans at auxiliary buildings

-Discovered that the website and bylaws have differing information. Website (under ‘Overview’ 🡪 ‘Eligibility’) states that projects must involve auxiliary buildings (with no qualification regarding grants versus loans).

-The bylaws do not include a statement about which buildings projects are able to involve.

-It was determined we should continue this conversation at the next meeting when Robin is present, as this discussion originated in an email thread between Meredith, Brian and Robin.

4. Brian – Lommasson solar project

-KRELF funded Lommasson project in the past – this project necessitated a structural engineering evaluation. It was originally believed that we had this evaluation available in our records. That turned out not to be the case, so we had to hire someone to do this evaluation, put the project $517over budget.

-Peter asked if this cost be added to the loan. Brian explained that he had tried this, but wasn’t successful.

-Abby was in support because the committee had expressed interest in providing more funding last year, but that the funds weren’t available at that time.

-Sam asked how long the payback will be (for the loan component of the project).

-Brian explained the difference between a 10 year pay back or a 5 year pay back. Are we interested in offering that option? The group was amenable to this idea.

-Abby asked if we should approve a contingency budget, as this project did not have any contingency funds in the budget.

-Max asked how much contingency should be might be needed.

-Brian said about 10 percent.

-Max moved to approved $1000 – unused funds will be returned to KRELF

-Sam seconded.

-Vote unanimous