Passed 9-0

RESOLUTION 12-13

TO ACCEPT THE REPORT ENTITLED "COMMON GROUND: TOWARD BALANCE AND STEWARDSHIP – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JOINT CITY OF BLOOMINGTON-MONROE COUNTY DEER TASK FORCE" AS AN ADVISORY DOCUMENT

WHEREAS, The Common Council passed Resolution 10-03: *Establishing a Joint City of Bloomington – Monroe County Deer Task Force*, creating a citizen group to explore ways to address human-deer conflicts, to solicit public opinion, to engage in public education and to submit advisory recommendations for review by local government and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources;

WHEREAS, The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has exclusive jurisdiction over deer and other wildlife per I.C. §14-22-1-1, but allows communities to develop deer management strategies that suit the unique needs of each community, provided the strategies are congruent with State law and policy;

WHEREAS, The Task Force members were selected based on their expertise, their ability to keep an open mind and their ability to work with others of differing opinions;

WHEREAS, The Task Force is composed of 11 members with backgrounds in animal welfare, wildlife rehabilitation, biology, social science, gardening, hunting and local government;

WHEREAS, Since September 2010, the Task Force has met to explore deer management approaches, educate and reach out to the community, assess community sentiment, review the science and consult with experts;

WHEREAS, The Task Force has held over 25 meetings wherein the public was invited to attend, observe and record what happened and wherein public comment was provided at each meeting;

WHEREAS, In addition, the Task Force held five community outreach meetings, issued a public opinion survey and established an e-mail address to solicit public input;

WHEREAS, The Task Force has issued several media pieces to advise residents on how to co-exist with deer, has appeared on local radio and has established a website and an extensive set of "Frequently Asked Questions" to educate the public about community deer;

WHEREAS, In accordance with its enabling legislation, the Task Force submits its recommendations in the form of a report entitled *Common Ground: Toward Balance and Stewardship – Recommendations of the Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force (Report)*;

WHEREAS, The Report is an advisory document and, as such, does not obligate or bind the Common Council or Mayor to any particular course of action;

WHEREAS, Given the advisory nature of the document, it will be up to the legislative and executive branches to decide how, and if, to move forward with these or other deer management recommendations based on conformity with Indiana Department of Natural Resources policy and on matters of cost, efficacy, humaneness, safety and community feedback;

WHEREAS, As outlined in Resolution 10-03, the Task Force shall sunset once it submits its recommendations;

WHEREAS, The report of the Task Force is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Council and Mayor thank the members of Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force for the difficult work they have performed and find that the Task Force has fulfilled its charge.

SECTION 2. The Task Force Report entitled *Common Ground: Toward Balance and Stewardship – Recommendations of the Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force* is hereby accepted as an advisory document.

SECTION 3. Acceptance of this Report as an advisory document does not eclipse the possibility of other management approaches that may come forward that are consistent with Indiana Department of Natural Resources policy and prove to satisfy criteria of cost, efficacy, humaneness, safety and community acceptance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 5TH day of DECEMBER, 2012.

TIMOTHY MAYER, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 6th day of DECEMBER, 2012

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 12th day of December, 2012.

MARK KRUZAN, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution thanks the members of the Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force for the difficult work they have performed and finds that the Task Force has fulfilled its charge. It also accepts the Report as an advisory document. Given the advisory nature of the recommendations, it will be up to elected officials to decide how, and if, to move forward with any of the recommendations. Acceptance of this document as advisory does not eclipse the possibility of other management strategies that may come forward that prove to satisfy criteria of cost, efficacy, humaneness, safety and community acceptance and that are congruent with Indiana Department of Natural Resources policy. In accordance with its enabling legislation, the Task Force ends its charge and expires with the submission of its Report.

Signed copies to:
Legal CM/CA Clerk(s)
MC commissioners