

**IMAGINEBLOOMINGTON STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY, MAY 22, 2013**

*Meeting summaries are transcribed in an abridged manner and no audio recordings are available. All Steering Committee meetings are open to the public.*

**Attendance:**

*Steering Committee Members:* Jack Baker, Jason Banach, John Carter, Don Griffin, Dave Harstad, Nikki Johnson, Mike Litwin, Patrick Murray, Steve Smith, Phil Stafford, Maggie Sullivan, Tom Swafford, Larry Wilson and Carl Zager

*Others in attendance:* Tom Micuda (staff), Josh Desmond (staff), Scott Robinson (staff), Jacqui Bauer (staff), Lisa Abbott (staff), Danise Alano-Martin (staff), Jason Carnes (staff), Nate Nickel (staff), Katie Bannon (staff) and Madie Bruker (staff).

**Continued Goal Setting for Goal Two Topics:**

Mr. Robinson opened the meeting with a brief overview of the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He then asked if there were any additional comments concerning the topic of Culture. Ms. Sullivan discussed the biking culture of Bloomington, as well as awareness for local foods, the “Lawns for Life” program, preserving greenspace and climate change.

Mr. Robinson asked Mike Litwin to provide some initial thoughts regarding the Environment topic. Mr. Litwin discussed the importance of Green Infrastructure to the community. This often includes animal habitats, air quality and water quality. Mr. Litwin also said that many city governments are specifically planning for Green Infrastructure. He discussed residential air and solar energy sources, energy conservation programs and related education activities. Mr. Wilson talked about the problem of non-native/invasive plant species in the county and the long-term impact that could occur because of them.

Ms. Bauer talked about waste reduction and recycling efforts, as well the environmental, energy and fiscal impacts of water treatment. Ms. Sullivan said that Bloomington could become a model community for energy efficiency. Ms. Bauer gave an overview of recent community energy audits. Mr. Carter mentioned the benefits of past energy audits that were conducted specifically for community facility managers. He also talked about both on-going energy conservation and waste reduction education efforts that are happening at MCCSC.

Mr. Robinson asked about areas that might have the most potential gains regarding future environmental goals. Mr. Swafford responded that increasing the number of residential energy audits, plus implementing innovative and modern building standards for new construction projects would be highly beneficial. Mr. Murray said that community metrics would help to maximize efficiencies. Mr. Griffin said that an energy efficiency ranking would be a great marketing tool for property. He also asked about current incentives and requirements for energy efficiency. Mr. Micuda discussed local building codes, as well as developer utilization of the City’s green building zoning incentives.

Mr. Banach talked about the on-going energy conservation efforts at Indiana University. He also gave an overview of the Indiana University Integrated Energy Master Plan. Mr. Baker discussed energy

efficiency efforts being conducted at specific Indiana University facilities. He said that the comprehensive plan should address the topic of energy conservation, but it will be hard to provide specific ideas in the document. Ms. Johnson talked about the expense of providing recycling facilities at multi-family residential buildings. She stressed the importance of the city and landlords working together to increase on-site recycling options in the community.

Ms. Abbott briefly discussed the thresholds for multi-family units to receive City trash services. Mr. Stafford suggested that landlords of units that don't qualify for City trash services should have an option to purchase City trash and recycling services. Mr. Carter agreed and said this option would also benefit schools and non-profit organizations. Mr. Micuda gave an overview of the scope and budget of City sanitation subsidies for recycling. Mr. Smith said that since recycling is currently subsidized, an option could be to have the City collect all recycled items, regardless of whether or not they are on a City trash route.

Mr. Swafford recommended conducting a cost-benefit analysis for recycling costs, which could be added as a goal in the new comprehensive plan. Discussion ensued regarding the market demands for greater energy efficiency and providing on-site recycling services. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Bauer talked about the wide range of industries that recycling supports. They also said that opportunities to keep recycled products in Bloomington, versus the current method of shipping them out of the city, should be pursued.

Mr. Litwin said that recycling is only one option: Reducing and Reusing are also important concepts. Mr. Harstad said that historic preservation is "green" because it offers a viable source of recycling and energy efficiency. Mr. Swafford agreed and said modern society tends to tear down older buildings instead of preserving them. Mr. Wilson said that there is an opportunity to tie the Cultural and Environmental topics together by providing recycling and reducing waste at local events/festivals. Mr. Stafford talked about ways to incorporate recycling facilities so that they're located around residential land uses. Discussion ensued regarding the recycling center located behind the Showers Building.

Mr. Griffin and Mr. Wilson talked about the problems of radon and lead paint in Bloomington. Mr. Litwin said that pollution in the city needs to be addressed. Mr. Zager said that the economic viability of historic rehabilitation needs to be studied further. Mr. Swafford said that City Hall was a great example of historic preservation and local partnerships. Mr. Harstad said that environmental sustainability can often be economic sustainability too. Mr. Griffin talked about his experience using green demolition and that it saved money overall. Mr. Swafford said that the Utilities Service Board has been working to implement energy savings techniques at utility facilities in order to get costs lower.

Mr. Robinson closed by reminding the Steering Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for June 5. It will be a continuation of the Group 2 goal development session, with a specific focus on the Human Condition. If there are further ideas regarding either Culture or the Environment, they can also be addressed at that meeting too.