

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Claire Cumberland, David Parkhurst, Jeff Jewel, Gary Charbonneau, Cynthia Schultz, Randy Cassady, Andrea Jobe, Rita Drescher, Ashley Cranor

Regrets: Bill Brown, George Huntington, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Matt Press, Lauren Cowan (Active Aging Coalition, Commission on Accessibility, Agewise), Dedamia Whitney (Environmental Commission)

Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

Cynthia and Jeff will talk about the GRI initiative, green business certification and BCOS activities at the next Green Drinks on May 22.

Clips of Faith will take place on May 31.

Bike to Work Day is this Friday, May 17.

Ready Set Grow will take place at the Farmers Market on May 25th from 9am – noon, and demonstrations will be from 10am - noon. The group is seeking a beekeeper to do a demonstration.

The county Soil & Water District is considering applying for a Section 319 grant to work on the Salt Creek watershed to follow on the success of a similar grant they received for the Clear Creek watershed. They will hold a discussion this Friday at 10am at their office.

The Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission is evaluating how to use the Thompson property that is owned by the county, and are considering issuing an RFP for the property.

SNAYL (Sustaining Nature and Your Land) Day will take place from 10am – 3pm on June 1 in the Warehouse on S. Rogers.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Matt Press on local development efforts

Matt is a local property developer. He started his presentation with an introduction to the concept of New Urbanism, developed to counteract the damage done to the American landscape by urban sprawl and to refocus development activities on cities. New Urbanism is centered on the human being. The 10 principles of New Urbanism:

- Walkability
- Connectivity
- Mixed use and diversity
- Mixed housing
- Quality architecture and urban design
- Traditional neighborhood structure
- Increased density
- Green transportation
- Sustainability
- Quality of life

When he returned to Bloomington in 2001, he looked for an opportunity to engage in a project that would allow him to make a statement about his New Urbanism philosophy. The South Dunn development was his first attempt to do this, and allowed him to learn the ropes and create an example for other developers. The new B-Line Station project is a further development of his philosophy as well as a direct response to the B-Line.

The townhome component of the B-Line project will include microhousing, solar, rainbarrels, reclaimed brick, covered bike parking, and a number of other sustainability features.

Some discussion ensued about various aspects of New Urbanism. In response to a question from the commission, Matt noted that it's important to make a distinction between urban and rural areas, and described examples of situations where New Urbanism might not be appropriate. However, there are elements of New Urbanism (such as green transportation) that are relevant to developments regardless of where they occur.

Report from the Chair

Community Conservation Challenge: Maggie shared an update on this effort from Molly O'Donnell.

Solar installations have been completed on the congregations involved in the grant. The group held a household conservation forum on May 1 to get more households involved in conservation efforts.

Molly is also interested in starting a sustainability pledge program similar to the pledge developed by Beaverton, OR. Cynthia and Andrea both expressed interest in talking further about an effort like this.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui asked for volunteers to help organize greening the Taste of Bloomington event

*could also ask attendees to bring their own cups to reduce waste.

*Andrea, Randy, and Ashley are willing to help out with planning

*set up meeting with DBI and BIRA after a meeting with the Environmental Commission on Thursday at 4pm (all commission members are welcome to attend).

Jacqui also gave an update on the Hoosier to Hoosier collection effort. The group has doubled the amount of donations collected by this time last year, so expects that the sale will be much larger than before.

Jacqui also mentioned that the City has been selected as a host for the EDF Climate Corps fellowship program, and her intern Ian will continue throughout the summer in this capacity. The intent of the program is to make the business case for energy efficiency investments.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: Maggie is still wrapping up the food section, but is looking for input on what the next topic area should be. Cynthia voted to target the economy and employment section and said she'd like to work on this. Jeff and Randy are also interested. Cynthia has additional individuals who are interested as well.

Ashley also expressed interest in having the county sustainability commission work with the Environmental Commission to develop the toxins section. Dave P. also expressed interest.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Dave Rollo is the representative, but has not yet been able to attend a meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Green Business Certification: No further updates.

Global Reporting Initiative research project: Cynthia has a draft of the student report that was put together by a class this last semester. She's working on incorporating several revisions recommended by the leadership committee, and hopes to bring the report in front of City Council and the mayor soon. She will make the final report available in Dropbox.

Imagine Bloomington committee: Maggie is the BCOS representative to the steering committee, which is currently working on setting specific goals for the new comprehensive plan.

New business:

Claire proposed a new project to showcase local efforts to implement alternatives to traditional lawns. She's interested in finding good local examples to highlight. Rita expressed interest; Claire will also coordinate with the Environmental Commission. The slogan: Grow don't Mow.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.