

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, June 11th, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9th, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, David Rollo, Rita Drescher, David Parkhurst, Gary Charbonneau, Randy Cassidy, Claire Cumberland.

Regrets: Jacqui Bauer, Ashley Cranor, Andrea Jobe, Cynthia Schultz, Maggie Sullivan.

Staff: Ian Champ.

Public: Diane Jung (Environmental Commission).

Acting Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Announcements:

- Randy Cassidy announced two upcoming social events:
 - Taste of Bloomington is approaching next week (6/22/2013).
 - Jazz festival is coming up next August.
- David Rollo introduced a point of consideration regarding limits to growth:
 - Mr. Rollo proposed crafting a limits to growth statement for the Imagine Bloomington process.
 - Mr. Charbonneau provided a list of source materials for considering the limits to growth concept.
 - A draft statement will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.
 - Center for a Steady State Economy (CASSE) provides a pre-written statement which communities can adopt too.
- Ms. O'Donnell spoke to the community conservation:
 - \$250,000 settlement from a recent Sierra Club settlement.
 - They are now looking to bring eight new congregation into their organization
- Mr. Jewel:
 - Bloomingfoods will be opening their new Elm Heights location early next month.
- Mr. Marc Tschida, Nonprofit Central Coordinator:
 - "Make Mention" will be on August 24th (the same day as the Hoosier to Hoosier sale).
 - The event will be sponsored by Bloominglabs.
 - It will be a whole day of creating things out of recycled and reusable materials.

Approval of Minutes:

The May 2013 minutes were approved as written unanimously.

Presentation on Nonprofit Central:

- Marc Tschida, Nonprofit Central Coordinator, delivered the presentation.

- MCPL received funding from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County for the creation of a dedicated resource center for nonprofits within the community.
- Nonprofit Central (NPC) is located on the second floor of the library right in front of the Indiana Room.
- NPC is staffed M-F from 1-5pm by staff with nonprofit experience and knowledge.
- Additional hours can be arranged on request by contacting Mr. Tschida.
- NPC offers information ranging from Board retention to fund development.
- The three primary resources are:
 - Access to staff.
 - Access to physical books.
 - Access to a foundation database.
- Additionally, NPC offers a community organization database for all Bloomington nonprofits.
- Training courses and workshops will be offered for nonprofit-oriented training sessions.
- Three trainings are currently scheduled.
- In addition, a training program focusing on TechSoup will be provided soon.
- Last week's open house had roughly 40 individuals from the public come to see NPC.
- Starting on June 20th, there will be a bi-weekly newsletter covering a wide range of topics and pertinent information.
- For more information, contact Mr. Tschida at npc@mcpl.org.

Report from the Chair:

- Taste of Bloomington:
 - Volunteers are greatly appreciated to help further recycling efforts for the event.
- Imagine Bloomington:
 - Imagine Bloomington is designed to help us anticipate where the community will be in 2040.
 - The Community Planning portion of Imagine Bloomington will have a meeting next week to address the inclusion of community agriculture.
- Green Pledge:
 - The Commission is continuing to develop a community Green Pledge which individuals, businesses and organizations would be able to sign
- Green Spots tour:
 - Will occur on June 29th.
 - Green Spots Parks and Recreation program which highlights the efforts of passionate locals.
 - The event is a tour of all the green spots around Bloomington which are sponsored by individuals.

Committee Reports:

- Environmental Commission and Planning Committee:
 - The co-housing project is coming up soon and the proposal is of interest to the Commission.
 - Co-housing units are not currently covered by the City's ordinances.

- The Commission should continue to monitor the progression of the project.
- The site will be managed like a co-op in that there will be many housing units, but also many shared spaces.
- This project could lend the opportunity to increase the predictability of our permitting process.
- Examples of similar successful projects include:
 - Hartwood Co-op in Bayfield, Colorado.
 - Trillium Housing unit in Portland, Oregon.
- Green Business Certification Committee:
 - The Green Drinks presentation allowed for some good collection of public input.
 - The process to craft an effective Green Business Certificate will continue.
- Global Reporting Initiative project:
 - The project is ongoing.
- Grow It, Don't Mow It update:
 - Work on this project continues and the proposal continues to be shaped.
 - A proposed list made available to the public of all the plants which fall outside of regulated height restrictions (6") would help the public understand and participate in this project.
 - Potential future press could help increase program exposure.

New Business:

- Ms. Drescher commented on community Permaculture:
 - Spring garden awards should recognize Permaculture as well.
 - Consider proposing a permaculture award for the spring gardening award.
- Mr. Cassidy questioned how the Commission maintains a clearinghouse of information and resources:
 - An example of this concept is, is there a clearinghouse of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations information?
 - The Local Growers Guild might be a good resource for this CSA information.
 - Perhaps the Local Growers Guild web link should be added to the City's Website.
- Ms. Drescher questioned sustainability visibility in the news:
 - Specifically, an example was given on how the Herald Times has not published their sustainability notifications in a while.
 - The Commission agrees that a lack of content might have been the cause.
 - The larger question remains how to maintain up-to-date and accurate information and get it out to the public as soon as possible?

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm