

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, July 9, 2013

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

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Rita Drescher, Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, George Huntington, Gary Charbonneau, Randy Cassady, David Rollo, David Parkhurst, Andrea Jobe.

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ

Acting Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:01** pm.

Announcements:

- Molly:
 - The Unitarian Universalist Church saved \$262 on their utility bill since the installation of their new solar panels.
- Andrea Jobe:
 - Middleway House's rooftop garden is in need of a few interns.
- Jacqui Bauer:
 - Hoosier to Hoosier is fast approaching and will be held at 1525 S. Rogers St. (just south of the Community Kitchen) this year.
 - 6 trailers have been filled with donations so far, but H2H is still accepting donations.
 - Volunteers are still needed for donation pick-ups, event set-ups.
 - If you would like to volunteer, please email h2h@indiana.edu.

Approval of Minutes:

The June 2013 minutes were approved as written unanimously.

Presentation on the Open Streets event:

- Anna Dragovich, could not be in attendance, but Jacqui Bauer delivered a brief presentation in her place.
- Open Streets projects are also known as "ciclovía."
- This event involves closing a street typically used for automotive traffic in favor of bike and pedestrian traffic.
- Event is intended to challenge the ways we use space in cities.
- City and county staff are still working to finalize the location for the event.
- The event is still seeking sponsorship from local businesses and volunteers to help run various activities along the route.
- The event will be held on September 22nd.

- Discussion:
 - Mr. Huntington: Will this be a one-time-only event or will it become a more frequent event (like San Francisco)?
 - The interest is certainly there among the organizers, but this year's event is more of a pilot project to gauge community interest and buy-in.
 - Mr. Jewel: Will Anna be able to attend the next meeting to give us some final details?
 - Yes, we believe so.

Report from the Chair:

- BCOS leadership transition.
 - Transition of leadership will be postponed until our next meeting.
- Availability for August meeting.
 - The August meeting will be cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Meetings will resume in September.
- Report on GreenSpots tour.
 - Report will be delivered at the next BCOS meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

- Sustainability Partnership (SuPar) grant update.
 - A second round of sustainability partnership grants were due at the beginning of July.
 - Nine submissions were made and the funding decisions will be delivered at the end of July.
 - Submissions include increased recycling efforts at the IU Greek houses, lighting upgrades, and so forth.
- Report from Taste of Bloomington.
 - This year's recycling efforts greatly expanded the availability of recycling opportunities at the Taste.
 - Potentially, for future Taste events, we should coordinate with the Taste volunteer coordinator to strengthen the drive, perhaps many months ahead of time.
 - Is there a way to incentivize vendors to offer a rebate for proof of recycling?
 - (Ex: offering \$.50 off a drink if a person brings their cup back to the vendor to be recycled, etc.).
 - Is there a way we can incentivize vendors to use recyclable or reusable supplies (cups, plates, etc.)?
 - Almost all comments from the public and event staff about the recycling stations are very positive.
 - Perhaps labeling the recycling bins (much more clearly) would help increase recycling rates.
 - Is there an event policy in Bloomington for recycling?
 - There is a draft policy, but it hasn't been officially adopted yet.

- As a counterpoint, it should be considered that more barriers to holding an event led by volunteers, could eventually end up stopping the event in its tracks.

Committee Reports:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee:
 - No report this meeting.
- STAR committee report: Update on food indicators:
 - No report this meeting.
- Green business certification committee update:
 - Cynthia, David and Jeff are working to integrate the comments they have received thus far.
- City Zoning:
 - The meeting with the City Planning Department to discuss barriers to urban agriculture had to be postponed, but it will be rescheduled soon.
- Global Reporting Initiative project update:
 - Revisions have been made, but at this moment the GRI is not in a publishable format.
- Imagine Bloomington update:
 - This round of discussions revolved around creating draft 10-year goals related to the environment, energy, sustainability, etc. (among other topics).
 - Information on the Imagine Bloomington process and proposals can be found at www.bloomington.in.gov/ImagineBloomington.
 - There will be three additional steering committee meetings over the next few months.
 - Public comment will be integrated into the draft goals to ensure the Imagine Bloomington final document reflects the interests of the community.
 - The next steering committee meeting will be held in City Hall's City Council Chambers at 4pm on July 31st.
 - The finalized plan will be released in early 2014.

New Business:

- Randy Cassady: Who writes the grants for BCOS, the city, the county, etc?
Would it be possible for BCOS to outsource this process at all?
 - Jacqui: We do not have a designated grant writer in the City, but typically the staff member most involved in the process is the one who writes the grant in question.
 - Ashley: I recommend compiling any information necessary for a grant which might apply to a project before the grant is opened up for the year.
 - Jeff Jewel agrees that this would be good to look into to make sure the commission can jump on these opportunities.

- Randy Cassady: Could we look into revamping our parking spaces in an isolated, test location to allow for smaller spaces for smart cars, etc?
 - This might be a good comment for the Imagine Bloomington process.
 - BCOS could take a position on this and push this idea to the council or to the City's Department of Public Works.
 - The system does seem to function (from IU's experience).
 - Randy Cassady will draft a position statement for BCOS about this issue.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **6:56** pm