

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, January 10, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2011.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Bill Brown, Ted Mendoza, David Parkhurst, Dave Rollo, George Huntington, Caleb Steiner

Regrets: Melissa Clark, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer

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

Announcements:

*Council legislation changing chicken regulation making it so that neighbors don't need permission to have chickens. While permits are not required to slaughter chickens on residents' own property, it is still advised that they check with the board of health to ensure that they have proper facilities to conduct the slaughtering process.

*IU Sustainability Department has moved to 704 E. 10th St. The goal for the new location is to be a demonstration house for zero net energy use. The location has LED lighting, geothermal heating and cooling, and solar panels.

*USGBC regional conference, Greening the Heartland, is still coming on May 16-18. Volunteers needed.

*MLK Day Weatherization Event is Jan. 16. Volunteer team leaders needed. Lunch is provided. Dress appropriately.

*IU Film series on food issues, Jan. 21

*Local Growers Guild meeting, Jan. 21

* Slow Food meeting, Jan. 22

*Terrible, Horrible No-Good Very Bad Bike Ride. Counting on bad weather, Feb. 18

*eWaste collection at Sanitation, 9-1 pm, Feb. 4

Approval of Minutes:

The December meeting's minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present for comment.

Presentation on the Platinum Bike Task Force Report

Scott Robinson represented the Platinum Bike Task Force from the Planning Department. The task force had a year to layout a plan for getting a Platinum (the highest rank available) ranking from the League of American Bicyclists. A Bike Summit was held last year, and suggestions were solicited by community members.

The report was approved by the City Council in fall 2011. The report was written with “interested but concerned” bike riders as a target audience since this population shows the greatest potential for growth in ridership. The report is titled, “Breaking Away” in an attempt to reach out to a broad audience. Reasons for encouraging biking in Bloomington include: environmental harmony, economic resiliency, health, and quality of life. The report focuses on the 5 E’s that the League using to measure a community’s bike friendliness: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation. Within each category of the report, there are 5 recommendations for Bloomington. All together, 50 actions were proposed.

The goal is to reach Platinum status by 2016. Bloomington reached the Silver level in 2010, and the target is to be certified at the Gold level in 2014.

- Cynthia asked if there are any specific metrics the committee used to approach this goal. Scott clarified that there aren’t specific measures but the bike summit was helpful. There are volunteers who conduct regular bike counts, but we still need better measures.
- Two consulting firms have been hired to put together a feasibility study of adding bike infrastructure and other ways of increasing bike ridership. Bloomington has taken advantage of most of the low-hanging fruit, and so the consultants will look for new routes and infrastructure like bike boulevards. They will also be coming to educate the public on biking. Bill mentioned that IU has hired another consultant to conduct a traffic demand study, it may make sense to have the City’s consultants collaborate with IU’s consultants. Scott will explore this. There’s a lot of potential to work with students. Ultimately, the goal is to get people to ride more even if they’re only riding once a month.
- The task force was officially disbanded once the report was accepted, but there may be a committee established to continue the work of the task force. David Rollo asked if BCOS could be advocates for new side paths. Scott wasn’t sure of when these processes would be best brought up, but he said there’s potential. Jacqui made the comment that there is a perception that biking is only for athletes or the elite. We could advocate for the need for active transportation as being an important part of the whole transportation system in Bloomington and not just as an extra side benefit. How can BCOS support this effort? The new committee appreciates any guidance from BCOS. Chris asked if there would be new funding resources to actually achieve the goal. Scott said that the goal is more of a catalyst to promote infrastructure improvements. The goal is not to consider bike funding as “extra,” but rather as an integral part of the community’s transportation investment. George asked if a bike summit would be repeated. Scott assured BCOS that there would be another one. An IU bike expo in the fall was suggested by Bill.

Report from the Chair:

BCOS made assignments for specific members to check into possible projects for the spring quarter as opposed to having individual committees sponsoring their own

activities. Ted is working on a brief ad for the radio. Caleb is working with SIREN to put together information on renewable energy installations and Duke Energy to find new ways of metering homes. Cynthia is working with Earth Care to get local churches involved with a "Task of the Month" program. Currently, over 100 churches are involved. It would be nice to have a bike activity for BCOS to plan for this year given the recent adoption of the Platinum Bike Task Force Report.

A motion was made and passed to write a statement requesting that more funds be allocated for bike transit in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

TASK ACTION: Maggie will write the statement based on a certain percentage of transportation funds going towards biking. Maggie will also contact Andy with planning to collaborate.

Jacqui mentioned that there are still more room for homes to be visited for the MLK Day weatherization event. There is a need for more volunteers to be team leaders.

Committee Report:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC): Will meet next week

STAR Committee: Andrew Rector will be back this semester. The first STAR meeting will be this Thursday. The committee needs a new liaison from the Environmental Commission. We could also use more BCOS members. Waste/Recycling and Food will be major focuses for the committee this year. Housing and Transportation are areas that are being fleshed out currently.

Leadership Committee: BCOS currently has three vacancies and possibly will have four soon, so the Leadership Committee needs to discuss what types of new members might be desirable. Possible focus areas include social equity, food, transportation, sustainable business, and/or waste. Two of the vacancies are from the Council.

Jacqui, Maggie, David Rollo, and Cynthia will meet to discuss new appointments soon. If BCOS members have additional thoughts on potential new members let Jacqui know.

No other committees were represented.

ACTION: Jacqui, David Rollo, Cynthia, and Maggie will meet to discuss potential new BCOS/STAR members.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:10** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, February 14, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner

Regrets: David Parkhurst, Ted Mendoza, Janice Lilly, David Rollo, Ashley Skooglund, and Bill Brown

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer

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

Announcements:

- *Open House, Feb 26, 2-4 pm, Solar Furnace
- *Feb. 18th Horrible, Terrible, No Good Bike Ride
- *Green Drinks Wed. 22 Feb. Upland
- *Presentation to students and possibly an administrator at South High School on greening cafeteria
- *Green Prom, collecting dresses with fashion show of second hand dresses. Contact Amanda if interested in more information
- *Community Orchard Work days, Sunday's from 1-5 pm. Check out the website for calendar events
- *Imagine Bloomington. First meeting 21 Feb. Ten meetings to discuss the future of Bloomington. Visit Bloomington.in.gov/imaginebloomington for more information
- *Greening the Heartland conference, May 15-18 in Indianapolis, calling for table sponsor. Contact Ted or visit USGBC national website.

Approval of Minutes:

The January meeting's minutes will be sent out next week and then adopted at March's meeting.

Presentation by EarthCare:

Ben Brabson gave a presentation regarding the need for reducing green house gas emissions. We have two options for controlling climate change: new technology and changing behavior. Ben recommended BCOS members read the article, "Leaping the Energy Gap." He also gave some examples of ways of reducing our energy use: high efficiency homes, generating own energy and food, white roofs on schools, electric vehicle charging stations, etc. Although most of our electricity comes from coal, buying an electric car is still good because eventually the energy production will catch up with the sustainability efforts and our energy sources will get greener.

Earth Care is proposing that Bloomington take a year and see if we can make a significant cut in our conventional energy use. The goal proposed was 40%. Some possible ways of achieving this energy use goal include creating a website to share stories of what has been done to use alternative fuels; officially kicking off on Earth Day followed by inviting everyone to participate in an Independence Day from fossil fuels event; and, ultimately, getting everyone on board from the schools to the government to the businesses and so on.

ACTION ITEM: BCOS will add a brainstorming session for next meeting as to how BCOS can help with Earth Care's vision. Be thinking of individuals and organizations who could serve on a steering committee to make this goal a reality.

Public Comment:

Ben Brabson and two other Earth Care representatives and Valerie Lonneman, a potential BCOS member, were present.

No public comments were made.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie lead a follow-up discussion of project suggestions for 2012

- MLK Energy Improvement event took place. Next year we could use more team leaders so we can spread out teams more widely.
- Partnering with Earth Care to do the Task of the Month. Earth Care's presentation outlined a different approach BCOS can take to support their efforts in the 40% energy reduction.
- Caleb could work with WFHB
- Ted could work with WFIU
- Spring: rain barrel auction/workshop. Melissa was the driving force on that though and she's no longer with BCOS.
 - Anyone passionate about that?
 - Bloomington Master Gardener may be a contact
 - Maggie will meet with Amy Thompson at the Extension Office.
- Launch of gardening year in partnership with the Food Council
 - Celebration of the opening of gardening season, May 19 for Farmer's Market

ACTION ITEM: Chris will serve on planning committee for Launch of Gardening season

- BCOS could consider working with Benjamin Schultz (and potentially Local First or the Chamber of Commerce) to build infrastructure for website for green business certification. There's a website being generated to support this effort. Eventually all data will be captured by a database. Different checklists are being generated for specific types of businesses.
 - Could there be any money to offer a financial incentive for businesses?
 - There's some potential for that, but need to find a funding source. The funding could be treated as a revolving loan fund to finance energy or other improvements if the funding could be found.
- No BCOS-specific ImagineBloomington meeting will be held but attend the Environmental Commission meeting on Feb. 23 or one of the larger community meetings if interested in getting involved.

- Working on writing a letter supporting alternative transportation. Ensuring that some of the road maintenance funds go toward alternative transportation.
 - At the March meeting BCOS will consider writing a letter in support of the Farm Bill
- d. Confirm availability for March 13th meeting
- Most BCOS members present will be available for the March meeting.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator:

Come to the Horrible Terrible No Good Bike Ride, Feb 18th 10 am. Meet at City Hall

Committee Report:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee: This committee reviews proposals for new developments throughout the community. Caleb has attended recent meetings to comment on plans.
- Maggie attended the first Switchyard meeting. The Switchyard community meetings are being held to help steer the planning of the development of the Switchyard property that runs parallel to the B-Line trail at the southern end. The property is around 80 acres and many possibilities exist for its development to be a great asset to the sustainability of Bloomington.
- STAR: Finishing up Transportation, and now working on Recycling and Waste
 - Recycling/household
 - # of businesses and apartment complexes that offer recycling
 - Next meeting will be held Feb. 28th @ noon
 - The downtown recycling facilities are being used fairly heavily and will hopefully be used even more.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:20** pm.

MINUTES
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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, George Huntington, Bill Brown, David Parkhurst, Ted Mendoza, David Rollo, Ashley Skooglund, Claire Cumberland (new member)

Regrets: Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

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

Announcements:

Claire Cumberland, a newly appointed member of the commission, introduced herself.

Ashley described the Community Conservation Challenge grant received by the county. The solar panels on the north end of the Showers Building are about 50% installed, and several dashboards will be installed in local schools. The ribbon cutting will be in April.

There will also be a special session on March 29 to review the state's energy audit of county facilities through the Community Energy Plan Program.

The E-House Open House will be on March 23. IU's Office of Sustainability hopes this will eventually be a zero-energy building.

IU's Energy Challenge will also kick-off on April 3.

Ted did a short piece for WFIU's Speak Your Mind program on energy conservation. It will air Thursday.

Dave R. summarized his presentation on peak oil, as well as a talk given by USGS on the "end" of peak oil. He noted several inconsistencies and questions about the data presented in the USGS talk.

Approval of Minutes:

The January and February minutes were approved.

Presentation by Vectren on rate structures and efficiency programs:

Tom Bailey from Vectren gave a short presentation on Vectren's programs.

He started with an overview of Vectren's rate structure. 60-70% of bills are the commodity price that Vectren pays for gas, while the remainder is for distribution and other expenses. He noted the volatility of the gas prices over the last decade. Gas is currently trading at \$3-5 while peaks in the last few years were around \$14 per dekatherm.

The company serves residential, commercial, industrial customers. While the Bloomington area is only served with natural gas, Vectren also provides electricity in some areas of the state. Some other points on rates:

- Customers consuming more than 5,000 dekatherms a year can purchase gas from a 3rd party.
- Vectren has no demand charges or peak charges like there are in electricity
- They have a decoupled rate structure, which removes the incentive from them to sell more gas to residential and other smaller customers. This in turn incentivizes the company to promote conservation.
- Natural gas use—90% of energy retained to end use appliances (unlike much higher levels of waste for electricity).
- The rate structure has 2 tiers for residential, 3 for commercial and industrial, with the cost per therm declining the more customers use.
- Gas is purchased from all over North America, and the increase in gas supply has allowed gas prices to remain low and stable

Vectren makes numerous appliance rebates and other incentives available through their Conservation Connection.

- Businesses have access to the same incentives as residences, with up to \$25k available in incentives per business. Examples include \$5k on boilers with 90% AFUE, \$5k on boiler controls.
- All non-transport customers are eligible for technical assistance programs
- Clear Results—3rd party admin of conservation programs; customers can also call Vectren for help with audits.

Syngas (synthetic gas produced from coal) plant proposed in northern Indiana—Vectren has openly opposed this project.

They are also working on combined heat and power and on deploying more compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle infrastructure. Honda in Greensburg is producing CNG vehicles.

Regarding renewable energy: they have 80 MW of wind power, some amount of methane. In the past they have asked permission to charge a "green tariff" to allow customers to opt to pay more for renewables, but it was declined by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC).

Report on sustainable agriculture conference:

Dave Parkhurst reported on the sustainable agriculture conference he attended recently. BCOS funded Dave's participation in a field trip of community gardens. The trip included Dunbar Garden (which raises bees, chickens, goats, compost, vegetables, etc.) and the Mabelvale Magnet Middle School garden, which is a project of the AR Children's Hospital Research Institute and a part of a childhood obesity program.

During the trip he learned of a program called FoodCorps that deploys volunteers to communities to help work on local food initiatives.

We also discussed having BCOS support two farm-related bills being considered by Congress. Reviewed Dave's suggested language and voted unanimously to approve his language with the edits suggested during the meeting.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie met with Earth Care to discuss strategies to meet their proposed 40% energy reduction goal and they are working on identifying ways of drawing in additional partners.

Ted recorded a "Speak your Mind" monologue for WFIU on energy conservation. Maggie asked if anyone else is interested in recording another of these on water or food for the next quarter. Claire volunteered.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

The City has installed two new public electric vehicle charging stations in downtown parking garages. They will be completely up-and-running very soon.

Jacqui also mentioned that she will be hiring an energy management intern for the summer to help with building assessments, and asked commissioners to please share this info with anyone they know who might be interested.

The S Walnut Streetscape project kicked off on Monday, and in addition to addressing stormwater issues will add bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly features to the section of Walnut between 1st and 3rd.

Imagine Bloomington visioning meetings are continuing. Please try to attend one as your schedule allows.

Committee reports:

STAR committee report

Cynthia noted that the committee is working on evaluating waste data, including IU, MCSWMD and City data.

Meredith is tracking down IU's 2011 data.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee

We'll wait for this report until next month.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:25** pm.

MINUTES
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COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, 10 April 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Bill Brown, Amy Countryman, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington, Ted Mendoza, David Rollo, Claire Cumberland

Regrets: Amanda Figolah.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

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

Public Comment:

None.

Announcements:

*Energy Fair April 21st 9:30-12:00

*April 22, Fashion, Refashion. 7 pm. Find a lot of great prom dresses made of

*IU Energy Challenge, 16 Residence Hall, 24 Greek Houses, and 21 Academic Buildings. IU is one of the biggest savers in the Big 10.

*eWaste, May 11-12, in Memorial Stadium in Purple parking lot

*Gary Bauer, in City Hall Tonight and Tomorrow at 7:30 pm

*Tree Planting, Saturday. Planted 25 new trees, work day this weekend

Approval of minutes:

March minutes were approved unanimously

Presentation by Can We Can It? - Leadership Bloomington:

The group was from the Leadership Bloomington-Monroe County. Why is this group important? They realized that gardening is so important. But they also realized there was a gap: canning. There's a strong interest in this art in this region. The organization focus on the Three C's: 1) Canning classes. Working with IU facilities and staff. 2) Canning Materials. They're working with Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. They have purchased canning materials that will go specifically to low-income residents. And 3) canning events. The organization is looking for grants and marketing to help spread the word. Two canning events are tentatively planned as well: canning tomatoes and peaches. The organization is looking at a date some time in August. Amy Countryman suggested that it is best to can with free stone peaches since they are much easier to work with. The canning workshops are planned to take place at an IU food services facility. The canning events could take place at a local church as well. Sherwood Oaks and the Bloomington Unitarian Church might be other options. The canning events are meant to

provide people with skills and also to provide the community with canned food they can take home. If the organization ends up with large amounts of food that is canned and not taken home, they could donate to a local food bank.

The organization is seeking grant money to purchase canning equipment to check out to members of the public. They are considering selling canned food to community members as a fundraiser. Other possible funding resources include working with the Local Grower's Guild and appointing a representative to the BCOS STAR committee. Canning kits would cost around \$130. Mother Hubbard's Cupboard only has room for about 6 kits and the organization believes there's greater demand than that. People probably will need to take the class before using the system. Altogether the organization is looking for \$750-\$1,000 in grants.

Report from the Chair:

Discussion of upcoming BCOS activities:

- BCOS could participate in the Energy Fair from 9-12:00 on 21 April at the Farmer's Market. We could represent water conservation (since it's tied to energy use). Some members may be able to stop by to facilitate a booth, but many are tied up with other organizations represented at the event.
- Bike Anywhere Day, May 18th, 4-9 pm. Madison St. will be closed off. BCOS could setup a booth. IU Bike steering group would like to partner with this event.
- Where do we want to focus for the next quarter?
 - Water and food
 - Rain barrel idea is being carried out with a different organization
 - Gardening Kick-off Season
 - We sent a letter in support of the Farm Bill
 - We are setup to give another monologue on the radio
 - Is there anything else BCOS would like to do?
 - Article in the newspaper?
 - Do Ecoreport interview on water
 - Work with South High School's greening cafeteria?
 - The focus is waste reduction
 - The high school currently used disposable Styrofoam lunch trays
 - Hoosier to Hoosier
 - Green Business
 - Cynthia is working with the Northwest Institute's business classes
 - Looking at developing a sustainable business certification model. Third year of projects now. Eventually we hope to have someone to actually check up on businesses and then recognize businesses that are doing good things.
 - Active transportation with an intern working on this topic this summer.
 - Guest editorial about a sustainability topic
 - Jacqui will be writing one on energy inventory and

- water
 - Perhaps an article regarding food would be worthwhile so as to coincide with the Gardening Season Kick-off on May 19th.
- o Goals in water
 - Reduce city-wide water consumption by 3%
 - Distribute 200 rain barrels
- o Transportation
 - BCOS could support a motion to have more funds going towards active forms of transportation

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui met with Earth Care regarding their 40% energy reduction goal. They are still moving forward with gathering more information. BCOS may be able to get involved with this project. No definite date set yet for the kick-off events but possibly launch 4th of July. Jacqui also shared new posters about the new Recycling Center.

Committee reports:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: There are some new developments being proposed with mixed-use zoning. No new Greenfield developments. There are still opportunities to get involved in Imagine Bloomington. The Switchyard master planning process offers opportunities of public comment as well.

STAR committee report: meeting every other week. Finished waste management, moving on to food next, starting with a brainstorming session to determine how the community is doing and how we can improve. The committee was very pleased with the efforts of Andrew Rector who has been working with the committee for the past two semesters but is now moving on to a summer internship.

New business:

David Parkhurt related a story of his efforts on the first Earth Day 41 years ago. He and a colleague setup a computer program that would calculate the country's population based on various birth rates.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:00** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, May 15, 2012
6:00 pm Kelly Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Parkhurst, Ted Mendoza, David Rollo, Claire Cumberland, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah (joined late), Caleb Steiner, Gary Charbonneau, George Huntington

Regrets: Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Skooglund, Bill Brown

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

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

Announcements:

The "Ready, Set, Grow" gardening event will take place this Saturday at the Farmers Market.

Dave P. asked for expert input on getting started with beekeeping.

Dave R. suggested a future discussion lead by the commission about limits to growth and what kind of economic system is compatible with resource constraints. This may happen at a future meeting, followed potentially by a larger community discussion.

The Community Orchard is trying to recruit additional volunteers and promote more community involvement. Please share info!

Hoosier to Hoosier is in need of volunteers tomorrow (5/16) to help process donations.

Approval of Minutes:

The April minutes were approved.

Report from the Chair:

Upcoming BCOS activities: tabled this discussion

Next interview with Ecoreport, other outreach: Claire will do the next "Speak Your Mind" segment for WFHB on water conservation.

Amanda agreed to do the next Ecoreport interview along with her kids. Jacqui will coordinate this with Amanda and WFHB.

Jacqui also submitted a guest column to the Herald Times on water and energy that should appear soon.

Board building/self assessment: In an attempt to improve the effectiveness of the commission and help fill commission needs with future appointments, members were asked to fill out an assessment of the role they hope to play on BCOS. The results will be compiled and shared at the next meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui reported that donations for Hoosier to Hoosier this year are way up, largely in response to increased direct outreach to students, especially international students. An increased number of volunteers are needed to help process the additional materials.

Committee reports:

STAR committee report: on hold until the new intern starts.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No report this month. The next meeting is tomorrow.

New business:

Amanda reported on a field trip she took with her kids to the climate observation tower at Morgan-Monroe Forest, and suggested it might be a good target for a future field trip by the commission (perhaps in conjunction with the Environmental Commission).

Jacqui noted a need for volunteers to staff the new recycling stations at the Taste of Bloomington. Caleb, Amy, and Dave R. all indicated an interest in volunteering.

For the next quarter, we had talked about focusing on waste and recycling. Amanda has tentative approval from the principal to transition to reusable trays if they can find money for the trays and for new, paired recycling and trash containers. This might be a topic for Amanda's kids to talk about on Ecoreport too. She'll check in with them and get back to us. Amy will share the estimated budget.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:05** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
6:00 pm Kelly Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 10, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Parkhurst, Claire Cumberland, Gary Charbonneau, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Skooglund, Bill Brown

Regrets: David Rollo, Amy Countryman, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington,

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

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

Announcements:

Three interns (including new BCOS summer intern Marguerite Huber) joined the meeting.

An event, Knitting to Heal, will kick off on June 16. Local knitters are invited to participate.

Maggie announced the Center for Sustainable Living event on June 23.

The local slow food movement will have their big annual fundraiser on August 12.

Carrie Albright joined from the Environmental Commission. She noted that there has been some overlap between BCOS and EC initiatives, and wanted to bring their activities to BCOS's attention to see if there might be opportunities to cooperate. The EC continues to maintain the **Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators** website (upcoming focus areas are air, energy, and transportation). The EC **Planning Committee** reviews development proposals for green building features, natural landscaping, etc. Their **Lawns for Life** program continues to focus on natural landscaping. They've just started a **Waste Reduction Committee**; this committee has worked on reduction in restaurant waste and reduction in waste in school cafeterias, and is also working to reduce waste at the Taste of Bloomington.

Maggie mentioned that some BCOS members have been involved in the reduction of school cafeteria waste, and she will forward reports on this initiative to Carrie.

Approval of Minutes:

The May minutes were approved.

Presentation by Benjamin Schultz on Sustainable Business Certification Program:

Benjamin has been working for two years and with two interns (Erin and Amanda) for the last year on a new Sustainable Business Certification Program. They are developing a

website and program, and have already had some businesses review the template. At different points in the process, Local First and the Chamber of Commerce have provided input.

Schultz et al are proposing a two-phase program, with the first phase focused on commonalities among all types of businesses, and the second phase tailored to specific types of businesses. The Phase 1 questionnaire contains over 140 questions. This phase will also focus on education in terms of giving businesses ideas on how they can become more sustainable. The team would then assist participating businesses in putting together their first sustainability report.

They will be focusing on Phase 2 this summer, which will target businesses that have gone through Phase 1 and committed to issuing a sustainability report each year.

They hope to have the City take over the program, but there may be other ways the program could be set up.

Two Informatics students have put together a website, but the site isn't populated with information since the program isn't up and running yet.

The sustainability report will be used as a template to gauge progress over time.

Benjamin will plan to come back in the fall with an update.

Update from the Food Policy Council – David Parkhurst:

Stephanie Solomon has temporarily stepped down from the Policy Council.

The Governing Committee will transition to a board development committee. There are currently no co-chairs for other committees. This committee is also intending to apply for 501c3 status.

The Assessment Committee has sent out survey forms and is evaluating data.

Education/outreach committee: Ready Set Grow took place last Saturday and was well-received. Garden the City is working to connect with City and County Government. Also interested in exploring the establishment of a food charter.

They've also held a visioning session for people to share their ideas.

Report from the Chair:

Third quarter focus on waste: We need someone to be interviewed on Ecoreport, someone to submit a guest column, and someone to do a Speak Your Mind piece. Claire volunteered to do the editorial, and Maggie will do Speak Your Mind. Amanda's environmental club will probably be able to do an Ecoreport (Amanda was not present to confirm).

Jacqui is doing a trial run with recycling stations at the Taste of Bloomington this year. She explored composting but hasn't found a solution yet—Ashley suggested that contacting Steve Hale. Volunteers are also needed. Claire may be able to help.

Bill is working to connect local growers to compost from dining halls and other organic waste on campus. They're working with IDEM and the administration on campus to move this initiative forward.

For next quarter, the focus may be on the sustainable business certification program, and/or on an education push, and/or a transportation-focused effort.

Board building/self assessment:

Maggie will send this to those who weren't present at the last meeting and will report next month.

The commission voted unanimously to cancel the August BCOS meeting because both chairs will be out of town.

Committee reports:

STAR committee report: The committee has completed waste and transportation, and is now moving on to food as the next topic. They are now looking for help from BCOS members to help support their work to gather information. Claire and Dave P. both volunteered. Cynthia will work with them to set up the next meeting.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No report this month since Caleb is not present.

New business:

Cynthia asked for BCOS to consider sponsoring a "Green Tree" for the Knitting to Heal effort in October in the amount of \$250-500. Ashley suggested that the Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission might also be sponsors. Maggie will also talk to Carrie and the EC to see if they might cosponsor as well. The commission voted unanimously to support a partial sponsorship.

Ashley has talked to several people locally about coordinating a bus tour to the Nusun solar plant in Columbus, possibly in the fall. She will explore with SIREN and others. Cynthia will help organize.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:30** pm.

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CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, July 10, 2012
6:00 p.m. McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Cynthia Schultz, Claire Cumberland, David Parkhurst, Amy Countryman, Bill Brown, Molly O'Donnell, Ashley Skooglund, David Rollo, Gary Charbonneau.

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington.

Staff: Laurel Archer, Chad Carwein (Planning intern).

Chair: Cynthia Schultz called the meeting to order at **6:02** p.m.

Public Comments:

No public comment.

Announcements

Cynthia Schultz in her role as co-chair introduced the newest member to BCOS, Molly O'Donnell. Molly gave a brief introduction of herself to the members.

Claire Cumberland is working on the Waste Reduction Article.

David Rollo – no announcement.

Ashley Skooglund announced the Monroe County Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission meeting date changed to 2nd Wednesday.

Amy Countryman announced the Local Growers Guild will have a meeting on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. and the Community Orchard workday is coming up on Wednesday, July 11th from 5 – 8 p.m.

Chad Carwein announced he is working on natural landscaping "Lawns for Life" and had information at the Farmer's Market. He is also working on green infrastructure section for the BEQI Report and looking for information about the tree canopy. He is also working with Professor Brown on green event guidelines and city greening that neighborhoods could use and would be beneficial to give these guidelines to the neighborhood associations.

Bill Brown announced the Hoosier to Hoosier sale is gearing up for the August 11th resale. Last year \$17,000 was raised and donated to charity. Volunteers are needed.

Molly O'Donnell is working on Earth Care and is now targeting churches.

David Rollo would like the commission to start looking at the perpetual growth imperative of the economy and the challenges this creates within the finite limits of the planet. Dave and Gary are interested in giving a 20 minute presentation to the commission at a future meeting.

Cynthia announced she is in education mode, writing and talking on radio shows and working toward a Green Jobs Business certification program.

David Parkhurst reported on two activities of the food policy council, namely that the assessment group was hoping to map private (and other) gardens in the city, and that the group as a whole was drafting a food charter.

Approval of Minutes:

Cynthia stated she has a couple of amendments to the minutes and would like them tabled until the next meeting.

Report on the Taste of Bloomington recycling effort:

Claire reported the recycling station was away from the trash. People were trying to recycle, but the recycling station needs to be close to the trash. It was also so hot some people didn't want to make the effort.

Chad stated he was there earlier in the day and the recycling bins were next to the trash bins and easier to identify. Later in the evening it was elbow to elbow and people weren't as careful.

Cynthia stated Jacqui said next year BCOS will work more closely with the Taste of Bloomington organizers.

Claire added she noticed one individual had brought his own plate and cup and the restaurants were receptive.

There was discussion among members if this could be an initiative, but were unclear of Health Department regulations. Ashley Skooglund sits on the Board of Health and will bring this up at their meeting and report back to the group.

Report from the Chair:

The August Meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be September 11th.

Hoosier to Hoosier needs volunteers.

Need to decide on a focus area for the fall – Professor Schultz is moving forward with his students for a two-phase business certification program that he would like the City or other local organizations to adopt.

Committee reports:

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Still working on the BEQI Report. Trying not to overlap with the STAR Report. One area that has no overlap is Air Quality. There was discussion among members about the BEQI report. Cynthia asked for a list of what will fall under Green Infrastructure. Chad listed Green Cap, Street Trees, Urban Forestry, Urban Agriculture, Gardening and other natural landscaping.

Davie Rollo would like to see a map of gardens in the city.

STAR Committee Report: None given

New Business:

Dave Rollo stated the BCOS needs to get involved with the updating of the Growth Policies Plan. This plan is updated every 10 years and there is little to no mention of sustainability in the current version. BCOS could work with the EC toward this initiative.

Tom Micuda will be invited to speak to the group about the GPP.

Ashley Skooglund would like to discuss the next Earth Day. She felt the Energy Fair was very well received and would like to discuss doing something similar next Earth Day and partnering with another group.

Cynthia stated the process will begin for the election of new officers. The election will be in late December. Cynthia stated she and Maggie both would prefer new officers be elected to chair and co-chair.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at **6:55** p.m.



CANCELLATION NOTICE

The August meeting of the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability has been cancelled due to Summer Recess.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, September 11, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell, Bill Brown, David Parkhurst, Jeff Jewel, Amanda Figolah, Ashley Skooglund, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington.

Regrets: Amy Countryman, Claire Cumberland, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ

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

Public Comment:

No Public Comments.

Announcements:

- o Sept 17th, IU integrated energy master plan public comment.
- o Sept 19th, possible last meeting of the draft report of the deer task force before the report goes to the council. Open to comment and input.
- o Sept 29th, Green Apple Day of Service; GBC day of service, looking to do a tour of the CIB building.
- o Oct. 3rd, dedication and ribbon cutting at new Will Dittmar park (4:30-6:30pm).

Approval of Minutes:

Passage of the June minutes was postponed until the October meeting. The July minutes were amended to address food policy discussion, name misspelling, and correction to a discussion on the "perpetual growth of the economy." These revisions were voted upon and the minutes were passed unanimously as amended.

Report on the Bike and Pedestrian Initiatives:

Bill Brown provided an update.

- o Using IU/Bloomington's initial Bronze level biking campus certification as a starting point for further improvement,
- o Almost all LEED buildings (11 in progress, 2 completed) are seeking LEED points for biking projects,
- o Through student involvement and University initiatives, interactive biking maps and maps showing bike racks are now available,
- o Transportation study conducted to assess traffic patterns (yielded a >50% participation rate for faculty, staff and students). Lead to the idea of creating a biking master plan for the university,

- o Walk friendly community assessment is being conducted by Mr. Brown's class in SPEA.

Report on the Bloomington Food Policy – Food Charter:

David Parkhurst provided a report.

- o The draft food charter provided for review by BCOS was drafted using models of various other food charters from both the U.S. and Canada,
- o Often Food charters are among the first things undertaken by local food councils,
- o Food charters are statements of principles rather than specific goals,
- o This new document reflects new input.

Discussion:

- o Clarify in the policy that this is a collaborative effort among many partners and not just a government undertaking,
- o Discussions on community-wide composting are being undertaken with utilities,
- o Experimentation in the private sector already underway – illustrates a potential wider interest in the subject,
- o Would IU like to be involved in this as well? – IUOS certainly supports this idea but University-wide approval might prove difficult to achieve.

Final Thought:

- o Review and assess for next month's meeting.

Report from the Chair:

- o Focusing on waste reduction for the 3rd quarter of 2012,
- o Press releases being formed for what has been accomplished and what is currently in the works,
- o Suggestions for committee focus during this final quarter of the year, with particular emphasis on educational initiatives desired:
 - o Planning Director Tom Micuda will be invited to talk about the Growth Policies Plan (GPP) ten year revision – focus on the City's planning,
 - o Focus on Food (STAR Committee's work),
 - o Transportation, including the new Bloomington Transit Hub.
- o Develop ideas for 2013 initiatives,
 - o Idea of drafting ordinances such as food charters, walk friendly assessment, Global reporting initiative for the City (focus on energy, economics and social equity),
 - o Task: Each commissioner is requested to develop one idea for a 2013 activity or goal by next meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Hoosier-to-Hoosier Sale:

- o Increase of ~70% in revenue,
- o Sale is in transition to a new location. Suggestions are welcome.

LEED Certification of City Hall:

- o Initial submission completed,
- o Issues to address have been brought back,
- o Resubmission in the next two weeks,
- o Because of the building's energy use (which do not allow us to meet Energy Star thresholds), the city was required to pursue an alternative path for certification.

The conditions of pursuing this path are that the project can only achieve basic LEED certification level rather than at the silver, gold, or other level.

Committee Reports:

ECPC – Environmental Commission Planning Committee:

- o No report this month.

STAR committee:

- o The committee held a discussion of multiple food-related organizations over the summer, and hopes to reconvene a subset of this group for the purpose of developing food-related targets for the community. The committee hopes to move forward with this in the fall.

New Business:

No New Business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **6:55** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, October 9, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell, Bill Brown, David Parkhurst, Jeff Jewel, Amanda Figolah, Ashley Skooglund, George Huntington, Claire Cumberland, Cynthia Schultz, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: Caleb Steiner

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:06** pm.

Public Comment:

Middle Way House is hosting an event to promote their rooftop garden initiative. All are invited to attend.

Announcements:

- o Ashley Skooglund –
 - o Historic Curry Building received Energy Star designation 2nd yr running.
 - o Monroe County Government won an Association of Indiana Counties government leadership cooperation award for their work in energy conservation this year.
 - o The courthouse renovation is still continuing but the building is open to the public once again. New lighting, more efficient boiler runtimes, addition of insulation are all some of the modifications which moved the Courthouse from an 11 to an 85 on the EnergyStar rating system. Open house date to be determined.
- o Jeff Jewel – will be giving a presentation on rails to trails in Ellettsville on November 13th.
- o George Huntington – former grocery store at 2nd and fess is slated to be demolished soon to make way for the new Bloomingfoods at that location.
- o Bill Brown – IUOS just finished their Million Gallon Challenge and reduced water use by about 3.77 million gallons (~\$70,000 saved) university-wide.
- o Molly O'Donnell – Three local churches and a synagogue, as well as two Indianapolis churches, are attempting to gain matching grant funding for solar installations on their facilities by pledging to cut energy use in their buildings and in at least a third of their congregations' households.
- o Jacqui Bauer:
 - o Next Wednesday, October 17th, is the next Facility Manager's Network meeting, and

- o Bloomington won a Green Community award from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns.
- o Cynthia Schultz – Green Drinks Bloomington will be hosting Bill Brown on Wednesday October 24th from 5:30-7pm at Upland Brewery.

Approval of Minutes:

The September minutes were approved as written unanimously.
The July minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Report on the Bloomington Food Policy – Food Charter:

David Parkhurst:

- o Motion to allow the Food Policy Commission to review and vote on the proposed revisions from last month,
- o Motion passes.

Report on the Joint (City/County) Deer Taskforce:

Dave Rollo

- o Began with a humane deer management position statement that is modeled after the Humane Society's position statement.
- o The taskforce has been meeting monthly for roughly two years and throughout the process, public comment has been a key component.
- o If left unchecked, the deer population in the Bloomington and larger Monroe County area will double every 3-4 years.
- o The deer are not yet at carrying capacity but they are impacting other species and vegetation in the area. Therefore, the report infers that the deer in our area have reached or surpassed their "social carrying capacity" which is distinct from carrying capacity.
- o For deer management both lethal and non-lethal methods are prescribed.

Discussion:

- o Multiple committee members voice support for the report.
- o The commission voted to write a letter of endorsement for the report, with two members abstaining.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie asked Commission members to share ideas for initiatives for 2013

- o Cynthia Schultz – Continue working on STAR and furthering its objectives.
- o David Rollo – Work on the City's Comprehensive Plan as a committee.
- o Ashley Skooglund – defer – continue county cooperation with city efforts.
- o Claire Cumberland – grow edibles around and along the B-Line.
- o Jeff Jewel – collaborate on the Comprehensive Plan, working on the Zoning Codes and altering them to be more environmentally friendly.
- o David Parkhurst – Promoting urban agriculture, working on the food policy commission.
- o Amanda Figolah – working with Monroe County schools to enhance and expand cooperation between the facilities, perhaps create a sustainability team for the school corporation – "Sustainability in Schools."
- o Gary Charbonneau – work on the City's Comprehensive plan.

- o George Huntington – work on the City's comprehensive plan, work to further sustainability outreach, education and implementation in the Monroe County School Corporation.
- o Molly O'Donnell – find IU USGBC students projects to undertake and implement projects.
- o Jacqui Bauer – Work on the Comprehensive plan, draft ordinances, other initiatives based on member interest and the amount of time they can commit.
- o Maggie Sullivan– focus on a select few concrete projects to undertake this next year and achieve the goals we set out to achieve.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui gave updates on a couple of issues

- o Two workshops held today to discuss ideas for the 12-acre parcel north of City Hall that was acquired by the city and which is at the heart of the existing Certified Technology Park. She noted that integration of sustainability principles will be prominent in this development, and suggested that the commission get involved.
- o She is also working with the Planning and Parks departments to facilitate a conversation among local mobility-focused community organizations to discuss next steps to achieving a Platinum ranking from the League of American Bicyclists. This could be scheduled for late this year or in early 2013.

Committee Reports:

STAR – Cynthia Schultz

- o Food Topic kick off meeting in August; follow up meetings will take place soon. Maggie and Claire volunteered to lead these discussions.
- o Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) report for 2013 – propose to work with Molly O'Donnell and an MBA student to complete the Bloomington GRI report.
- o Motion to create the GRI report with Professor White, Molly O'Donnell and graduate student team was passed unanimously.

New Business:

No New Business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **7:36** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, 13 November 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Molly O'Donnell, Bill Brown, George Huntington, Cynthia Schultz

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau, Claire Cumberland, Amanda Figolah, Jeff Jewel, David Parkhurst, David Rollo, Ashley Skooglund, Caleb Steiner

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ, Scott Robinson

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:11** pm.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Announcements:

- o Bill Brown:
 - o Final presentations for the IU walkability report is coming up,
 - o Energy challenge ending tomorrow (11/14/2012) at 6:45pm,
 - Historic 82 buildings participated.
 - o First ever Campus Sustainability awards will be held tomorrow at 7pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The October minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

Report on Imagine Bloomington – City's Comprehensive Plan:

Jacqui Bauer and Scott Robinson:

- o Updated draft vision statement will be released soon.
 - o Online response (~60 responses) and UserVoice (~75 responses) interfaces facilitated input from the public,
 - o Tables were also set up at the public library and at city hall to increase participation with community outreach (~30 responses).
- o Currently the City is taking the feedback into consideration for the vision statement revisions.
- o Focus for the vision statement was intentionally not concentrated on what City government can change but on how the community can become what it wants to be – numerous stakeholders included.
- o Comments included:
 - o Comments fell roughly into three categories:
 - First, those which praised the statement as is,
 - Second, those which offered constructive criticism,

- Third, those which condemned the plan as unimportant and a waste of time and resources.
 - Revisions have already been made to accommodate public comment,
 - Wording and intent clarifications will be reviewed and revised to increase clarity,
 - Urban agriculture was a concern brought up through the UserVoice interface that received a lot of support, and a bullet was included to reflect this.
- Imagine Bloomington's vision statement will be brought before the Steering Committee tomorrow and then the Plan Commission on December 3rd,
- The hope is that public involvement will continue to grow as this plan moves forward.

Discussion:

- Cynthia Schultz:
 - Can we get a class or a student project to work on this and work to engage the younger population?
 - Perhaps using online resources?
 - Move away from bullet points and more toward visual aids.
- George Huntington:
 - Is there a framework for review of this plan? Or measuring success? Or re-visioning the vision statement?
 - *Answer* – the general rule is to review a comprehensive plan and factor in improvements every ten years but the document is still in draft form and revisions can be still easily made.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie Sullivan continued the conversation about BCOS's 2013 goals.

- Imagine Bloomington Comprehensive Plan:
 - Essentially all of BCOS would like to remain involved in this process since it is viewed to have such potential for impact in the community.
- Voting for new officers:
 - New officers will begin their term at the beginning of the new year,
 - Cynthia and Maggie are both willing to step down if other BCOS members would like to take on more responsibilities. Jeff and Molly were suggested as possibilities.
- BCOS will be giving its year-end report to the City Council in a few weeks (date to-be-decided).
- The Center for Sustainable Living has reached out to BCOS to see if the Commission would support and work towards a plastic bag ban for the City:
 - Both L.A. and Seattle have plastic bag bans in place,
 - Feedback thus far has been that the community is supportive of the idea but cautious of the implications,
 - Right now, the majority of work on this issue would most likely revolve around background research, outreach and education.
- Green Business Certification:
 - Business students are currently working on marketing strategies. We may have a presentation on this project again soon.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui updated the Commission on the status of a grant application:

- Solar Grant:
 - Working on a joint project with the School Corporation to install solar panels on two buildings,
 - This proposed project would tie fitness goals with energy goals,
 - The proposal is due Thursday (11/15/2012).
- Beat the Meter Blitz:
 - Third annual Beat the Meter Blitz will be held in December,
 - 30-40 free energy audits offered by the City in partnership with the local chapter of the USGBC.
- LEED Certification:
 - City Hall has been LEED Certified.

Committee Reports:

STAR – Maggie

- STAR Committee will be working on the Food section in the near future.

STAR – Cynthia

- GRI Report:
 - Student group is working on a Global Reporting Initiative study for BCOS,
 - No effort required on the part of the Commission except for some basic coordination,
 - Potential for this report to replace the STAR, but much more needs to be sorted out before this is a viable option,
 - Other cities have done this, but not many.

Molly:

- EarthCare:
 - Fundraising breakfast to be held on the first Sunday of this upcoming February.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **7:13** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, 11 December 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 2012.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, George Huntington, Cynthia Schultz, Gary Charbonneau, Claire Cumberland, Jeff Jewel, David Parkhurst, David Rollo.

Regrets: Ashley Skooglund, Caleb Steiner, Molly O'Donnell.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer.

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at **6:06** pm.

Public Comment:

None.

Announcements:

Deer Task Force Report was accepted unanimously by City Council as a non-binding document.

Approval of minutes:

October and November 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentation on the limits of the growth economy – Gary Charbonneau and Dave Rollo:

Began with a definition of growth—we are accustomed to a growth rate of 2-3% just to sustain our economy, but this rate is unsustainable.

Some basic points:

- Can use the Rule of 70 to determine the amount of time it will take to double the size of the economy (or anything else).
- Global petroleum consumption and world gross domestic product have been growing exponentially. This also corresponds to exponential growth in population, CO₂ concentration, the rate of extinction of ocean fish, the rate of species extinction, and the loss of tropical rainforest.
- Ecological economists have recognized that growth must take place in the context of limits. Peak oil demonstrates this point.
- As the world economy demands more oil, we experience repeated price spikes.
- Over history, economic recession has corresponded to spikes in oil prices.
- The cost to produce different types of oil varies dramatically. Saudi oil costs about \$20/barrel. Ultra-deep oil is between \$60-70/barrel, and oil from oil sands is about \$85/barrel. The top price tends to set the market price for all oil, regardless of where it came from. That is, the high price of oil sand oil enables Saudi oil to also be sold near that price.

- The financial system also reflects this dysfunction. The rise of expensive oil will put a damper on growth, and the only way to maintain the illusion of growth is to take on more debt (create more loans).

The City of Bloomington needs to start thinking about how to transition to a steady-state economy. Because the City is in the process of updating the Growth Policies Plan through the "Imagine Bloomington" process, this would be an appropriate time for BCOS to take up this issue.

How does the US's declining birth rate relate to this? Eventually, it will move us toward "steady state," but in the meantime it will create an economic headwind that we'll need to learn how to deal with.

What are some practical things that Bloomington should be doing? The City must realize that it cannot rely on economic growth to solve its problems, and reflect this in its plans. The City should also reflect this in its budget projections, and consider ways to shield the population from the negative impacts of this shift. We need to focus on building a local food economy and recirculating money within the local economy.

How do we control growth in Bloomington? When it's apparent that we can't grow any longer, we'll first experience a credit freeze. Once this happens, this will signal that we can no longer grow.

Are there any small-scale economies that buck the national and international trends? There are examples, such as Kerala, India, but it's something that should be studied further.

The GDP is a flawed way to track success—it would be worthwhile to explore other ways to measure success. How do we redefine the paradigm through which we define a successful economy and society?

Potential Action Item: Dave R. and Gary proposed to establish a committee to consider how this situation could best be incorporated into the Imagine Bloomington process and into the new comprehensive plan. Claire, Dave P., and Cynthia indicated interest in serving on this committee. Dave R. said he's willing to chair. Others were asked to share additional names of others who might be interested in participating, especially skeptics who may be able to provide a different perspective. Should also try to involve people with communications skills to help craft the message.

Report from the Chair:

2013 officers: Maggie proposed that Jeff and Molly step up as "chair and vice chair in training," and agree to take over in six months or so. The slate was approved unanimously.

Involvement in Imagine Bloomington and the revision of the comprehensive plan: Maggie and Jacqui will continue to attend the steering committee meetings. The vision statement has been approved by the Plan Commission and is expected to be approved by City Council in January.

Brainstorming initiatives for 2013: At a previous meeting, Ashley had suggested doing a bigger event for Earth Day this year, so that might be one area to focus on.

A class has also been identified to study the idea of plastic bag fee or ban.

Bill's class also looked at a walk-friendly community study—we might be able to play a role in this.

Next month, Benjamin Schultz will come back to present on the green business certification project he's been working on. This might be another area where BCOS could play a role.

Amy and Amanda both resigned from the commission. Maggie encouraged members to share names of others who might want to volunteer.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui mentioned again that City Hall has been LEED certified. We were not able to achieve the Silver level of certification because of challenges in energy use, but are proud of this significant achievement.

Committee reports:

Update on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) initiative with Ball State: Cynthia described the GRI effort, and is working with Ball State to gather data for Bloomington. Cynthia will plan on doing a more detailed presentation on this effort in January.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No report.

STAR committee report: An intern is working on pulling together the food data, and then the committee will move forward with identifying indicators and setting targets.

New business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:15** pm.