

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, 11 March 2014  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 8, 2014

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Molly O'Donnell, David Parkhurst Andrea Jobe, Maggie Sullivan, Claire Cumberland, Jana McGee (new member), Jeff Jewel, David Rollo, Gary Charbonneau, Ashley Cranor, Cynthia Schultz

Regrets: Bill Brown, Randy Cassady

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Jayne York (Kirkwood Design), Joe Kielar (Harrell-Fish Inc.)

Co-chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:03** pm.

**Public Comment**

None

**Announcements**

The Center for Sustainable Living is looking for new board members. Anyone interested can contact Maggie.

Ready Set Grow will happen again this year on May 24, hosted by Middle Way House rooftop garden. They are looking for a beekeeper to take part in the demonstration.

Ashley mentioned that the commissioners approved a 5MW solar installation on the Thompson Property. This proposal will be submitted to Duke. Also, members of the Lettuce Works project through SCCAP will be making a presentation at the Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission tomorrow (3/12, 5:30pm).

SB340, which will end the state's energy efficiency programs, passed the state legislature and is headed to the governor's office for signature. Anyone interested in commenting can contact the Dan Schmidt in Governor Pence's office.

**Approval of minutes** The minutes from the February 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

**Presentation about proposed Habitat B-Line Development**

Jayne York from Kirkwood Design Studio presented on the project.

Habitat is seeking a Planned Unit Development (PUD) approval for the proposed development; the project will be discussed for the second time at the city council meeting tomorrow.

The site was mostly clear of trees in 1967; the trees currently there have grown up since that time. The site is adjacent to Rev. Butler Park.

The homes will all be Energy Star rated and have a compact footprint.

One side of the development will be a traditional streetscape, with tree plots and sidewalks. It will include 35 homes, including some attached units, and portions of the site will be designated as conservation areas for trees (36% of total site footprint). The central green will be maintained by a homeowners association.

Commissioner questions and comments:

- An interest in public art facing the B-Line trail
- Alternatives to vinyl siding
- Concerns about isolating lower-income families from other areas of the community.
- Are there ways BCOS can help monitor erosion management?
  - The site will follow Rule 5 requirements; while the site is under construction, the lower areas on the site will help control erosion concerns, and then will be used as biofiltration once construction is complete.
- Any interest in forming a working group to work with Habitat?
  - Molly, Jeff, and Andrea volunteered

### **Presentation by Dave Rollo on Griffy Woods deer issues**

Focusing on ecological balance concerns at the woods, particularly in the context of the global biodiversity crisis.

The current proposal to control deer will focus on a subset of the 1200 acres controlled by the City Parks department. The impacts of deer density were reported in the Griffy Lake Master Plan, completed in 2008. The report suggested setting up plots to exclude deer to study the relative impacts. Numerous studies have shown negative impacts, including impacts on local bird populations, increases in invasive plant species, and decreases in tree regeneration. A study by Dr. Angie Shelton found no native tree seedlings inside their control plots (where deer were allowed to continue browsing).

The Deer Task Force recommended lethal means of controlling the deer population. An ordinance will be included in city council's packet proposing to allow sharpshooting for the purpose of deer control in Griffy Woods.

Dave P. proposed writing a letter in support of the culling effort. The effort will support sustainability of Griffy Woods itself, support local gardeners growing food, and the meat from the culled deer could be provided to local food programs.

Dave R. noted that there are logistical challenges in processing the meat. Local processors have volunteered to help with this service; another option would be to provide meat to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center.

The Parks Board is also in support of the effort, and would manage the implementation of the cull if the enabling ordinance is passed.

The council committee will meet on April 2, and the final action will be April 9.

Dave P. will draft a letter stating the points above and will share with everyone. The co-chairs will review and submit to Jacqui for inclusion in the council packet.

### **Report from the Chair**

Molly noted that Shazeen Attari's presentation from last month is available on CATS online. There is continued interest in modifying the water bills to better reflect units of usage and history of usage. Jacqui will follow up on seeming discrepancies among individual water bill formats and information types.

## **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

### *STAR Communities progress:*

Jacqui will share the background information with Jana.

Molly will be working on the section on reducing building energy use. She attended the IU Energy Working Group. There may be opportunities to work with IU classes.

Maggie and Andrea are continuing work on the green infrastructure and public spaces section. They will be meeting with Mike Litwin from the Environmental Commission to discuss.

Dave P. is working the community water systems section. He will meet with Utilities on March 12.

### *Green rental housing project*

Seeking assistance with volunteer events to help build the database

### *Georgetown University Energy Prize competition*

Letter of Intent due on March 31

### *Civil Streets*

Need for volunteers during kick-off event

## **New Business**

Molly discussed the co-housing discussion at the Plan Commission last night. The neighbors are concerned about safeguarding against a later conversion to student housing, drainage, and increased traffic.

The Plan Commission suggested that the petitioner work closely with the neighbors who shared these concerns. Dave R. indicated an interest in exploring whether the city might be able to assist with the extension of Short St.

Maggie followed up on the Farm School project. Those involved are still working on obtaining grant funds.

## **Committee reports**

*Environmental Commission Planning Committee:* The EC issued a memo strongly in opposition to the Habitat petition, focusing largely on tree loss and other environmental impacts. One possible solution is to have Habitat enhance the areas that will remain as greenspace. These areas are fairly degraded, so could benefit from investment. As a condition of approval, Dave R. is exploring requiring restoration of these areas.

*Imagine Bloomington:* the committee (Dave P., Dave R., Claire, Gary) has met with Tom Micuda about including a statement in the plan on the limits of growth. Dave R. shared a statement on limits of growth and asked for comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.