

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

6:00 p.m. Hooker Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Paul Schneller, Jim Sherman, Dan Killion, Melissa Clark, George Huntington, Andrew Davis, John Hamilton, Toby Strout

Regrets: Laura Kamp, Cynthia Schultz, Dave Rollo

Staff Present: Adam Wason

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes for both February and March of 2009 were approved by general consent.

Fiber to Home Discussion

Rick Dietz, Director of the City of Bloomington Information Technology Services Department gave a brief talk regarding fiber optic technologies. Rick spoke about the ITS Department at the City, his duties and responsibilities and thanked his staff for their dedicated work.

Rick discussed the benefits, costs, public/private issues and implications of high speed fiber for the transmission of data. The Commission thanked Rick for his presentation and had various questions about the topic.

Public Comment:

Individuals from the public were not present at the April meeting.

Announcements:

George Huntington spoke about Transition Bloomington that will take place in City Council Chambers on Saturday and Sunday April 18 and 19.

Toby Strout spoke about the Homeward Bound walk that will take place on Sunday beginning at Third Street Park.

Adam Wason announced that Green Drinks will take place on Wednesday April 22nd beginning at 5:30 in the banquet facility at Upland Brewing Company. Adam also announced that the South Central Branch of the Indiana Chapter of the USGBC will be hosting their monthly membership meeting at City Council Chambers on Thursday April 16th at 6:30 p.m. John Hewitt with the City of Bloomington Housing and Neighborhood Development Department will present on the Evergreen Village Project.

John Hamilton announced that he participated in a housing foreclosure workshop here locally.

Andrew Davis spoke about SustainIU events on campus through Earth Week.

Election of BCOS Chair for 2009

John Hamilton spoke of Cynthia Schultz's willingness to Chair BCOS going forward. George Huntington made a motion to nominate Cynthia, Toby Strout seconded the motion and it passed by general consent.

Discussion of BCOS Organizational Structure

John spoke about Cynthia's desire to creating committees around the work product that we would like to see moving forward. John gave examples that based on the work of the Commission that we will create working committees based on this thought process.

BCOS Strategic Direction – Recap

John spoke of how the STAR Committee, Transportation Committee, Water Infrastructure Committee, and that three other areas of concentration including Peak Oil and Energy Conservation, Food and Jobs and Poverty.

The commission discussed at length. Toby spoke of how she and Cynthia's conversation would have both an initiative and education component for the committee work.

George asked if the Commission as a whole would determine the deliverable for the committee, or if the committee would provide the vision to the commission as a whole.

Jim spoke of interest to take part in the Food and Water committees.

Toby spoke of how the STAR committee will have the established framework for the report and will look to offer guidance to interns moving forward.

Dan Killion spoke of his interest and how his value will be most beneficial to the Peak Oil/Energy Committee. Dan also spoke of how Jobs and Poverty relate directly to energy and his interest to be involved in that area as well.

Paul reiterated his concern that the Commission is not influencing public policy at the City of Bloomington. George spoke of how he sees this as even a larger community wide issue.

Toby spoke of her interest in areas of food, jobs, housing and poverty.

George spoke of an interest in food, and job/housing/poverty.

Melissa spoke about her interest in food and water.

Andrew spoke of how he supports Paul in principle that he suggested that an additional committee concentrate on creating a sustainability framework for guidance in City decision making processes. He also stated that his skill level is best suited for STAR and Transportation.

Dan noted that Matt Laherty, the newest Council appointment is a very skilled individual in the areas of energy systems management.

Policy Statements

John spoke about two issues that he feels the Commission could make policy statements on both the Work Release at the County Jail, and the closing of the Downtown Community Center.

Discussion ensued but no official policy statements were made. John Hamilton agreed to put together the statements through email, and the commission supported the statements.

Committee Reports

The STAR committee is making further progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45. The next meeting of the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will take place on May 12, 2009 in the McCloskey Room of City Hall at 6:00 p.m.