

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

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

1. Call to Order

2. **Roll Call:** Maggie, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, Bill Brown, Amy Countryman, Caleb Steiner, George Huntington, Ted Mendoza, David Rollo, Claire Cumberland

Regrets: Amanda Figolah

3. Public Comment

4. 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

5. Approval of minutes:

March minutes were approved unanimously

6. 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.

7. Report from the Chair

a. 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
 - Rainbarrel 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.
- o Active transportation with an intern working on this topic this summer.
 - o 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

8. 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.

9. Committee reports

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

10. 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.

11. Adjournment

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