

Imagine Bloomington

Public Input Workshop Summary – Group 2 Goals (6/25/2013) Monroe County Public Library

Group 2 Goal Topics: Arts & Culture, Environment and the Human Condition

Total Workshop Attendance: 32

Voting Summary*:

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
<i>1</i>	0	0	3	8	11
<i>2</i>	0	0	7	5	7
<i>3</i>	0	0	3	11	7
<i>4</i>	0	0	3	12	8
<i>5</i>	0	0	0	4	20
<i>6</i>	0	0	0	3	26
<i>7</i>	0	0	0	4	19
<i>8</i>	0	0	0	7	25
<i>9</i>	0	0	0	5	24
<i>10</i>	0	0	0	11	21
<i>11</i>	0	0	0	3	22
<i>12</i>	0	0	0	6	14

*** Not all of the meeting attendees participated in the voting exercise. Also, for those that did vote, they may not have voted on each individual goal or could have used multiple votes for an individual goal(s).**

<over>

Group Discussion Summary

Goal 1: *Sustain and increase overall attendance and participation in the year-round schedule of diverse arts, cultural events, and attractions in Bloomington.*

Goal 1 Discussion: N/A

Goal 2: *Increase and stabilize funding sources for public art initiatives.*

Goal 2 Discussion:

- Dealing with some fiscal constraints.
- Need for a performance arts spaces seating about 450-600 people.
- “Public art initiatives” – what does this mean? Tendency to look at this as the visual arts even though that is only one type of public art. What about writing, music, theater?
- Use zoning and other tools, rather than taxes, to support the arts.
- We have greater priorities than this.
- We should build beauty into other things in Bloomington, such as building architecture and streetscapes.
- The Buskirk Chumley is the City’s current big arts initiative.
- The arts are an attractor for visitors to Bloomington.
- Investment in public art on the B-Line such as the Stonebelt animals.
- Concerts such as the Lotus Festival bring people to Bloomington.
- Good architecture should be considered an investment in the arts.
- Public support of the arts has been important.

Goal 3: *Increase the number of artists living and working within neighborhoods through more zoning flexibility to allow a wider range of arts spaces and artist studio locations.*

Goal 3 Discussion: N/A

Goal 4: *Target an underutilized industrial area, such as S. Morton Street, into a collaborative artists’ district that fosters studios, collaborative work and gallery spaces.*

Goal 4 Discussion: N/A

<over>

Goal 5: *Establish a community-wide network of green infrastructure that preserves physical and ecological linkages among important/critical water, soil, air, plant, wildlife, and other natural-state resources.*

Goal 5 Discussion:

- We should consider lawns as part of the discussion and how we integrate them into the natural network.
- The definition for noxious weeds is something to consider when looking at natural landscaping for lawns.
- The Peak Oil report provided a vision for food in Bloomington.
- We should increase the livestock that's allowed within city limits and allow, for example, ducks and goats.

Goal 6: *Reduce community solid waste production by 5% annually and increase community waste diversion to at least 50% of total annual waste production within 10 years.*

Goal 6 Discussion:

- How were numbers like these determined?
- Based on current recycling numbers we have for residential housing under 4 units (37%). This goal includes multi-family, commercial, and industrial users as well.
- Monroe County Solid Waste District has good information about waste diversion.
- Is it just recycling?
- Would include composting, reuse, as well as recycling.
- The Herald Times did a report that indicated a substantial increase in curbside recycling is doable.

Goal 7: *Reduce energy usage for government facilities by 15% within 10 years compared to 2010 baseline values.*

Goal 7 Discussion: N/A

Goal 8: *Reduce energy usage for the overall Bloomington area by 10% within 10 years compared to 2010 baseline values.*

Goal 9: *Utilize renewable energy sources (wind, solar, geothermal, other) in order to attain a 10% local market share of energy that is derived from renewable sources within 10 years.*

<over>

Goals 8 & 9 (Combined Discussion):

- What about renewable energy? Do we need to reduce energy usage if we have switched to renewable sources?
- Would like to see more focused language for this goal.
- Energy efficiency vs. type is important.
- 10% isn't an ambitious enough goal.
- Does this factor in an increase in population?
- This would mean that even with an increase in population, we would be decreasing energy usage and increasing use of renewable energy.

Goal 10: *Establish public health and wellness performance measures for preventable disease rates, access to healthcare services, and active lifestyles.*

Goal 10 Discussion:

- What does "access" mean? Does this include a healthcare cooperative? Because it should.
- The cooperative should include homeopathic medicine.
- This says that we should establish performance measures. Do we need new ones? Aren't there some out there that already exist?

Goal 11: *Ensure that 100% of local children have access to quality pre-kindergarten educational programs.*

Goal 12: *Offer high-quality public education programs that result in increased annual graduation rates*

Goals 11 & 12 (Combined Discussion):

- We can't ignore that the state has a big influence on education.
- There are many different types of funding sources available for education. It's not just taxes, and creativity is needed. Some Jack Hopkins funding often goes towards education programs. Another example is the Dropout prevention program run by the Chamber.
- We need to think about the sustainability and long term funding of education.

General Discussion Regarding the Goals

- For all of these goals, we need to consider program funding for low income residents.
- Surprised housing affordability was not a goal under Human Condition.
- There were affordable housing goals as part of the Housing and Neighborhoods topic area.
- Would like to see goals regarding importing energy versus producing it locally to move more towards self-sufficiency.

<over>

- Would like more beautiful architecture in Bloomington and less cookie cutter buildings.
- Should put together a pattern language that represents Bloomington and incentivize and encourage buildings that fit into the pattern language.
- Energy efficiency in new construction is important. For example, EnergyStar, California's requirement for LEED for all new construction.
- Developers should be required to plan ahead for multi-family recycling or once they are required to do so they will say they don't have the space or facilities to do so.
- Buildings should use things like white roofs and strategically placed shade trees to conserve energy.
- Many developers have been proposing energy saving building design because it saves them money.

New Goal Idea Submissions

- New goal of considering our waste streams as resource streams - i.e. lawn waste is now directed to making compost/soil. Human and animal waste could be put to better use.
- A food goal is cool - 10% from within 50 miles.
- Food production is a major goal - we can do more to facilitate sharing knowledge about gardening and growing fruit (orcharding) within the format of residential lots.
- Would love to see some way of helping the city be more responsive in changing old food ordinances to reflect new goals (especially as outlined in food section of Peak Oil Task Force Report).
- Regarding goals 8 & 9, add a goal of becoming more energy self-reliant (i.e. producers).
- Draft Goal No 4, add: rehearsal and performance spaces ranging in size from small to very large.
- This goal drills down/expands upon draft goals #7-9 and tangentially impacts #12. In its simplest form: I imagine solar panels on every school in Bloomington and some form of education about sustainable use of resources in every classroom. I would actually hope we can increase the goal amount of energy reduction from fossil resources (#7-8) and increase the target goal for re-usage (#9). And rooftop PV on schools could be instrumental in these savings and even potentially produce a revenue stream. I will comment further on-line. As to the educational impact, we can not afford to bring up another generation of wasteful consumers and we will need people trained for jobs in a new economic structure - all sorts of jobs.

<over>

General Comments

- Goal #1/2 - If you promote art willy nilly, you will get bad art. Create environment for art to thrive.
- Regarding goals 3 & 4, I'd like to share an example of a successful arrangement I visited in Melbourne, Australia. A former stockyard building (large open building with high ceilings) was renovated and converted into an art-space of a special type. Along the perimeter walls were smallish spaces (i.e. 15' x 20' roughly from memory) divided up for artists to live in and work. The unique thing was that artists were "granted" use of the space for an extended period of time (i.e. 1 or more years) by the city-owner, in exchange the public was allowed (and encouraged) to visit these "open house" studio/gallery spaces like one would visit a park, show, gallery, or zoo (during open hours).
- Goal #3 - OK, pass the ordinance. Done.
- Goal #4 - with whose money?
- Studio spaces for visual arts is very important, but the most urgent need is for rehearsal, instrument and platform storage, and performance space for visual genres. The house needs to seat 450-600 with adequate backstage space (unlike Bus-Chum, for example). There are easily a couple dozen groups now camping out in churches, etc.
- As an artist it is especially important to me to prevent brain drain of artists in our community after graduation. I see a valuable creative work force for festivals and events in the participation and collaboration of Fine Arts students in putting on events such as Lotus, Tedx Bloomington, Trashion Refashion, etc.
- Love the idea of a pattern language in architecture and urban design.
- RE architecture think of Columbus Indiana!
- Love the idea of viewing architecture as public art form.
- I am opposed to forcing developers to integrate art objects into their plan. I support making visually pleasing, human scale architecture and land-use development a major issue in guiding future development.
- Please note: all these questions seem to focus on visual arts (painters, printmakers, etc.) but the performing arts seem to be overlooked.
- When speaking about the arts, develop language that includes the Performance Arts. Current language is slanted towards the visual arts, which is only one genre of 5: Visual Arts, Writers, Dance, Music, Theatre.
- Too many ugly student dwellings - esp. the one at the corner of College & 11th - with 4 different kinds of facing bricks! What, a clearance sale at the building supply store?
- One important form of Art and Culture that has been sadly neglected is architecture. The architecture on the Courthouse Square is beautiful and has real character. I'm thinking of such buildings that comprise the Fountain Square Mall, the KP building, Princess Theatre (which is actually north of the Square). Unfortunately, as we go further away from the Square the architecture becomes quite dull.

<over>

- Goal #5 - I don't know what this means. Lots of words that sound nice, w/o saying anything.
- Goal #5 is good as an over-arching goals. Interpretation/implementation should include nurturing ecological diversity through native plants and fauna and looking toward increasing local (small-scale) food production.
- Goal #6 - include waste reduction.
- Goals # 6, 7, 8 and 10 are the only viable goals for the community/city. OK, perhaps the zoning ones too.
- I marked Strongly Agree for goal 6,7,8,9 - however, I would like to note that I think these goals are not very ambitious. I am convinced that more could, and should be accomplished (regardless of population profile).
- Anaerobic digestion at landfill.
- To increase local energy production, we should investigate community solar programs that are being implemented in other cities.
- City-wide composting program.
- Soil amendmets and natural (fungus)
- Topic of shade trees on Kirkwood trellis that could provide a shade canopy and create a more pleasant environment and possibly reduce cooling costs of establishments.
- Make prevention of greenhouse gas emissions, and measures to adapt to climate change, an explicit focus of the GPP.
- Goal # 6 - Recycling is not provided to multi-family buildings (nor to commercial). You could have a huge impact on reduction of waste by getting apartment dwellers involved.
- Goal #7 - is way too weak a goal and within control of the gov't.
- Goal #8 - 10% should be increased - this is not enough reduction - in fact all percentages should be increased. I am aware that we have a percentage of our population that will have more difficulty reducing their usage or purchasing alternative energy sources. We need to figure out how programs can be developed to help them meet the goal also.
- Goal #8 - this would be great. I cannot find anyone to do a blower-fan energy analysis of my home and business. If the vendors don't exist, how will you achieve this?
- Goal #9 - waste of money for wind, solar, geo-thermal unless prices of equipment drops. Currently too expensive for public \$. The city could coordinate bulk purchases of equipment or LED bulbs or provide expertise to help folks achieve.
- Also: Energy Star and LEED requirements for new buildings and major renovations for homes and businesses.

<over>

- Reduce individual and business energy use. Hold workshops to help citizens reduce their carbon footprint so goal can be higher than 10% from a baseline (determined by the householder, based on when they started making physical and/or behavioral changes). BCOS will be working on an "i pledge" for Bloomington, based on one for Beaverton, OR. More programs like Habitat's home improvements for lower income homeowners.
- Tie the environmental quality into health (from climate disruption, walking & biking instead of driving), neighborhoods (walkable, gardens, solar power installations), education and the arts (Harmony School's solar sculpture). Support permaculture and native plantings in the city.
- Plant more diverse native vegetation in public right of way.
- Make increase of local food production a major goal (increase food production in Bloomington) - create educational and support industries.
- Make increase of local energy production and creating an industry or service industry to treat effect, building codes that require active and passive energy production/use more shade trees all over town.
- Create an ongoing public information/awareness initiative re: global warming and its local impacts (our area); target specific constituencies (e.g. homeowners, business owners), and provide a hierarchy of useful action related to GPP components (e.g. land use, transportation, energy use).
- Anything that favors alternative transportation helps in so many ways, the environment, our health, the ability of the poor to get to work, etc.
- We must continue to keep ahead of basic upkeep of infrastructure. The recent stormwater, sanitary and city water projects are crucial.
- Energy usage is hard to measure - e.g. additional residential solar power does reduce the total but activities like insulation and downsizing also reduce total.
- Goal #10 - make it possible for all residents to receive healthcare by starting a community-cooperative health insurance, accessible for all.
- Love the idea of community insurance for health care and include in this alternative health care modalities.
- Goals # 11, 12 - what possible impact could we have on the education system? The City has zero control over public schools, unless we are going to promote private schools as an alternative to public schools.
- Have been contacted in the last two weeks by folks concerned about movements in public education to cut or reduce support for art and music classes - generated by the publicity surrounding librarians. The City needs to affirm, in some manner, the relationship between art and cultural experiences - even in education - and the overall environment eventually created within and throughout the community. #12 on draft goals.
- Develop education and training programs for professions needed to develop and implement conservation and alternative energy programs (Ivy Tech, Chamber, high schools, IU, etc.)

<over>

- Withdraw from, abstain from promoting, facilitating, expansion of development (residential, commercial, institutional) into new areas, instead re-develop existing built spaces, including parking lots.
- More micro parks. More diversity in architecture - modern, designer, contemporary. A future Bloomington, not a 1930's past B-ton.
- Architecture & Planning: support co-housing with change in the ordinance. Same for recycling spaces in all new commercial buildings and apartments. Require renewable (solar) on all new construction. Reduce heat island effect - shade trees, light finishes on roofs and paving.
- I would like to hear ideas from other cities - we don't need to make the same mistakes others have made!
- Anytime you hear more from the public is a good thing, even if the input cannot be acted on immediately.
- Along the lines of another person's comment, some goals are more important than others.
- Should change the voting system to reflect prioritization.
- Put goals on a grid from low to high impact and from easy to difficult to help prioritize actions.