

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, 8 January 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, Caleb Steiner, Molly O'Donnell, Cynthia Schultz, Gary Charbonneau, Jeff Jewel, David Parkhurst

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, George Huntington, Claire Cumberland, David Rollo

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Cynthia Schultz called the meeting to order at **6:03** pm.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

Bill announced two campus forums on the natural gas boom at 4pm and 7pm on January 14.

The 2nd Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Bike Ride will be January 19 at 10am.

Molly announced a workshop for faith community facility managers to discuss HVAC and lighting. The date is TBD.

Ashley noted that the Solid Waste District has expanded the operation hours for recycling centers to five days a week.

Approval of minutes December 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Brainstorming for Earth Day 2013: Molly recapped the discussion at the leadership meeting last week. One role BCOS could play is to assemble info on all Earth Week events taking place around the community, and to help advertise these events. This could be done in a similar way to the "12 Days of Earth Day" that Jeff worked on in Cannon Beach.

Ashley will be doing more follow up on the Energy Challenge, including some events at the schools that participated in the effort. Considering doing an Energy Fair similar to what they did last year. Ashley, Jeff, and Molly will all work on this.

Discussion of involvement in Imagine Bloomington Process:

Jacqui gave an update on the process—the vision statement has been drafted and adopted by the Plan Commission. City Council will consider the statement this month and adopt it. Jacqui will share the vision statement so commissioners can review it and identify areas of particular interest.

Plastic bag ban study: A SPEA class has been identified to research the feasibility of a plastic bag ban in the community. We'll explore having the class present to BCOS to determine if the commission can somehow get involved with the project.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui noted that E-bills are now available for City of Bloomington Utilities water bills. She encouraged everyone to share this info with others so more people can sign up.

Committee reports

STAR Report: Moving forward with the Global Reporting Initiative in partnership with IU and Ball State. Need to follow up with Maggie and Claire to see what's happening on the food indicators.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: No January meeting, so nothing to report.

New business

Presentation on a proposed Green Business Certification program: Cynthia covered the efforts of Prof. Benjamin Schultz to develop a green business certification program. This will also be tied in with the Global Reporting Initiative study being done in conjunction with Ball State.

The group has completed a version of the program on paper. Phase 1 has been piloted with 3 entities: Twisted Limb Paperworks, IU Alumni Association, and Bloomingfoods. Next steps include migrating the developed content to a website, appointing an operations team (desktop or cloud), and appointing an inspection team (perhaps a class under supervision of a semester, a volunteer team associated with a local interest group, BCOS members).

For Phase 1: Developed simplified questionnaire (130 questions) with material in 3 categories (people, planet, profit). If they give a "yes" answer to the first question ("are you committed to sustainability"), they are accorded status for the first year. All other "yes" answers create a baseline measurement; "no" answers generate a recommendation. Measurements of energy and water used and garbage and recyclables generated are all required. Completing the questionnaire automatically generates a sustainability report for the business and an inspection report for the inspectors.

Prof. Schultz is hoping to hand the project off to someone who can implement the program. Suggestions already received including breaking up the program into more digestible chunks—perhaps into low-hanging fruit, allow businesses to focus on specific topic areas at one time. Interested in having BCOS take a role in implementation.

Ashley mentioned the county's interest in creating a local eco-tourism website and to highlight local green businesses. The Chamber and Visit Bloomington were also interested in participating, so may be an opportunity to tie these efforts in together.

Cynthia suggested that the eco-tourism effort could also include workshops (such as container gardening).

Cynthia will bring back additional updates as the program develops; and will work with a student intern and Jeff to identify resources for developing a website.

For the next meeting, Molly agreed to arrange a presentation on the solar grant received by Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light.

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

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, February 12, 2012
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, David Rollo, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Gary Charbonneau, Dave Rollo, George Huntington

Regrets: David Parkhurst, Claire Cumberland, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Cranor

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Madeleine (Madi) Hirschland, 3 members of the public

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

Announcements:

BCOS currently has 3 council openings.

Madi Hirschland and Dave Rollo met with Congressman Todd Young to discuss climate change. Rep. Young expressed skepticism but pledged to keep an open mind.

Molly announced an upcoming facility managers meeting on February 26 and a solar forum on March 3.

Campus Conservation Nationals will kick off on campus soon.

Approval of Minutes:

The January 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Madi Hirschland on the Solar Challenge

Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light (local affiliate Earth Care) received a grant to fund solar installations on six faith organizations ranging from Jewish to Protestant to evangelical Christian.

The bids received were much lower than the budget indicated, so the installations will be bigger than originally expected.

The group is also evaluating legal arrangements that would allow congregations to take advantage of the tax credits associated with renewable energy.

Each congregation has also committed to reducing their energy use by 25-40%, and has committed to getting members of their congregations to cut their household energy use by 1/7th (14%), and are taking their message on the road. Another 10

congregations are exploring participating as well, and may also install solar panels if legal options that allow them to take advantage of tax credits will work. Several congregations have already cut their energy use by up to 35% by altering behavior and by turning down the heat when the buildings are not occupied.

Local solar installers have given a quote of \$3.25/watt for residential installations.

Report from the Chair

Maggie gave an update on efforts to compile all Earth Week events in the community. Jeff has 6-7 events accumulated, and will share this soon.

The Food Policy Council will be providing us a revised version of the Food Policy Charter soon.

The City and County Parks & Recreation Departments are hosting a local "Green Spots" tour to show off local green features, and have asked BCOS to co-sponsor (no financial commitment). The commission voted unanimously to support this event.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

The City has received a grant from the Urban Sustainability Directors Network to create a green rental housing tool to serve partners in 14 cities across the country. The project will identify existing data, determine how to deal with differences in data formats, etc.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: Maggie has been working with an intern to assemble data related to food, including the number of residents receiving food assistance, community garden data, membership in Community Supported Agriculture partnerships, etc. She will share an update on this at the next meeting.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Caleb Steiner has stepped down from BCOS and from the ECPC. Dave Rollo agreed to represent BCOS on the committee.

Green Business Certification: The committee will have a more complete report next month.

Global Reporting Initiative research project: Ball State students came to Bloomington on Friday, and learned about ways the City has saved energy and water. The group also walked the B-Line and toured the courthouse.

Imagine Bloomington committee: the committee hasn't convened yet, but will have a report at the next meeting. Dave R. shared info on "The End of Growth," and will make this available to other when he's finished with it.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **6:45** pm.



CANCELLATION NOTICE

The March meeting of the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability has been cancelled due to lack of Quorum.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, April 9, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Bill Brown, David Parkhurst, David Rollo, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Gary Charbonneau, Dave Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, Ashley Cranor

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Claire Cumberland, George Huntington

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Randy Cassady

Vice-Chair Cynthia Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

Bill noted that there will be a tree planting this Friday in honor of both Earth Day and Arbor Day.

BCOS currently has 3 council openings. Dave R. indicated that they will be doing interviews very soon and hope to have appointments soon.

Last month the County Council approved a transfer in the county's new energy management fund, comprised of both energy savings from the solar panels and rebates received from the utility.

Ashley also noted that the kids she's been working with as part of their Community Conservation Challenge grant will be presenting policy recommendations to the school board.

Approval of Minutes:

The February 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentation by SCCAP on hydroponics: Todd Lare, Doug Wilson

Todd Lare and Doug Wilson from the South Central Community Action Program gave a short presentation on their proposed hydroponics initiative, which would employ disenfranchised populations (unemployed older adults, ex-offenders, youths, etc.). He noted multiple benefits of hydroponics, including reduced exposure to disease, reduced land requirements, etc.

They are using "Arthur & Friends Greenhouse" in New Jersey as a model for their program. SCCAP has now signed an agreement with this organization to explore feasibility in Bloomington. This study is expected to take 6 months, and they expect to eventually hire a project coordinator to oversee the effort.

This initiative is outside of the normal scope of SCCAP's mission, but shrinking alternative sources of funding have encouraged them to diversify their programs, including additional revenue-generating activities.

Some other details of the project:

- Currently looking for a site that is 30' x 90' that has water available, ideally located within Bloomington city limits.
 - Are open to using waste heat from an industrial process; could also consider solar power as way to make the project more attractive for grants.
- Are in the process of gathering start-up funds, including some of their own internal funds. Are exploring loans (paid back with products, potentially), gifts, tax credits.
- Hoping to be up and running by the end of 2013.

Who are the key partners? They've identified multiple possible social service providers who can act as partners, but need more help on the farming side.

Suggestions from BCOS: Middle Way House; LIFE Farms

Dave R. noted that hydroponics is not organic, and is more chemically based. Todd responded that there are multiple ways to create the nutrients that are needed, some of which are more natural than others.

How will the project be managed? In the short term, they are planning to manage it in-house, and hope to create an advisory board of experts.

Further inquiries may be sent to todd@insccap.org.

Presentation on Fair Trade resolution: Mary Embry and David Debikey

The Fair Trade Bloomington movement was formed in 2005 with 6 board members with the mission of advocating for increase availability of Fair Trade products. The movement globally is supported by Fair Trade Towns—there are now 600 cities that are identified as Fair Trade Towns.

Because of the widespread presence of Fair Trade Towns in Europe, corporations are starting to change their practices. In the US, there are just 26 Fair Trade Towns, although many others are exploring it. Bloomington would be the first in Indiana.

Efforts so far have involved increasing the amount of Fair Trade items that are available, getting media coverage, establishing a local store, working with local merchants to increase their Fair Trade products.

The last step of becoming a Fair Trade town is to pass a Fair Trade resolution, and they are working to build local support for this. Council member Chris Sturbaum has agreed to sponsor.

The group is looking for a letter of support from BCOS.

Jacqui noted that she has suggested adding other purchasing priorities to the resolution as well to provide flexibility to purchasers and mirror the existing sustainable purchasing policy, and Mary and David indicated that they are open to this.

BCOS voted unanimously to write a letter of support.

Report from the Chair

Update on the Earth Day effort: Jeff reviewed a number of Earth Day events that BCOS will be helping to publicize. Maggie will be putting together a poster to help get the word out.

Global Reporting Initiative: Cynthia noted that the STAR report this year will be based on the Global Reporting Initiative, and the students will be presenting on their findings on April 26—this will also be publicized as part of the Earth Day events. The event will be held in the Hooker Room in City Hall at 10am. Cynthia will report on their recommendations next month.

Food Charter: Dave P. read a resolution expressing BCOS's support of the Food Charter that the Food Policy Council hopes to present to City Council soon.

Jacqui noted that she is concerned with the phrasing of the charter because it includes bullets that don't fall under the City's jurisdiction, and indicated that she would make this comment to the Council as well.

BCOS voted unanimously to support, even if language is changed to reflect these or other comments.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui described a new Civil Streets Initiative that will focus on increasing courteous behaviors among cyclists, motorists, and pedestrians. She hopes to get the campaign going by the end of April.

Tabling opportunities—there are a number of opportunities coming up in the next few weeks, so anyone interested in participating should contact Jacqui.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: See above.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Dave Rollo is the representative, but has not yet been able to attend a meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Green Business Certification: The group had planned to speak on this at the May Green Drinks, but will plan to expand this discussion to include the broader activities that BCOS has been working on (including the GRI report).

Global Reporting Initiative research project: See above under "Report from the Chair."

Imagine Bloomington committee: the group has not met, and will report next time.

Adjournment:

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

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 14, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Claire Cumberland, David Parkhurst, Jeff Jewel, Gary Charbonneau, Cynthia Schultz, Randy Cassady, Andrea Jobe, Rita Drescher, Ashley Cranor

Regrets: Bill Brown, George Huntington, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Matt Press, Lauren Cowan (Active Aging Coalition, Commission on Accessibility, Agewise), Dedamia Whitney (Environmental Commission)

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

Announcements:

Cynthia and Jeff will talk about the GRI initiative, green business certification and BCOS activities at the next Green Drinks on May 22.

Clips of Faith will take place on May 31.

Bike to Work Day is this Friday, May 17.

Ready Set Grow will take place at the Farmers Market on May 25th from 9am – noon, and demonstrations will be from 10am - noon. The group is seeking a beekeeper to do a demonstration.

The county Soil & Water District is considering applying for a Section 319 grant to work on the Salt Creek watershed to follow on the success of a similar grant they received for the Clear Creek watershed. They will hold a discussion this Friday at 10am at their office.

The Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission is evaluating how to use the Thompson property that is owned by the county, and are considering issuing an RFP for the property.

SNAYL (Sustaining Nature and Your Land) Day will take place from 10am – 3pm on June 1 in the Warehouse on S. Rogers.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 2013 meetings were approved unanimously.

Presentation by Matt Press on local development efforts

Matt is a local property developer. He started his presentation with an introduction to the concept of New Urbanism, developed to counteract the damage done to the American landscape by urban sprawl and to refocus development activities on cities. New Urbanism is centered on the human being. The 10 principles of New Urbanism:

- Walkability
- Connectivity
- Mixed use and diversity
- Mixed housing
- Quality architecture and urban design
- Traditional neighborhood structure
- Increased density
- Green transportation
- Sustainability
- Quality of life

When he returned to Bloomington in 2001, he looked for an opportunity to engage in a project that would allow him to make a statement about his New Urbanism philosophy. The South Dunn development was his first attempt to do this, and allowed him to learn the ropes and create an example for other developers. The new B-Line Station project is a further development of his philosophy as well as a direct response to the B-Line.

The townhome component of the B-Line project will include microhousing, solar, rain barrels, reclaimed brick, covered bike parking, and a number of other sustainability features.

Some discussion ensued about various aspects of New Urbanism. In response to a question from the commission, Matt noted that it's important to make a distinction between urban and rural areas, and described examples of situations where New Urbanism might not be appropriate. However, there are elements of New Urbanism (such as green transportation) that are relevant to developments regardless of where they occur.

Report from the Chair

Community Conservation Challenge: Maggie shared an update on this effort from Molly O'Donnell.

Solar installations have been completed on the congregations involved in the grant. The group held a household conservation forum on May 1 to get more households involved in conservation efforts.

Molly is also interested in starting a sustainability pledge program similar to the pledge developed by Beaverton, OR. Cynthia and Andrea both expressed interest in talking further about an effort like this.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Jacqui asked for volunteers to help organize greening the Taste of Bloomington event *could also ask attendees to bring their own cups to reduce waste.

*Andrea, Randy, and Ashley are willing to help out with planning

*set up meeting with DBI and BIRA after a meeting with the Environmental Commission on Thursday at 4pm (all commission members are welcome to attend).

Jacqui also gave an update on the Hoosier to Hoosier collection effort. The group has doubled the amount of donations collected by this time last year, so expects that the sale will be much larger than before.

Jacqui also mentioned that the City has been selected as a host for the EDF Climate Corps fellowship program, and her intern Ian will continue throughout the summer in this capacity. The intent of the program is to make the business case for energy efficiency investments.

Committee reports

STAR committee report: Maggie is still wrapping up the food section, but is looking for input on what the next topic area should be. Cynthia voted to target the economy and employment section and said she'd like to work on this. Jeff and Randy are also interested. Cynthia has additional individuals who are interested as well.

Ashley also expressed interest in having the county sustainability commission work with the Environmental Commission to develop the toxins section. Dave P. also expressed interest.

Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Dave Rollo is the representative, but has not yet been able to attend a meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Green Business Certification: No further updates.

Global Reporting Initiative research project: Cynthia has a draft of the student report that was put together by a class this last semester. She's working on incorporating several revisions recommended by the leadership committee, and hopes to bring the report in front of City Council and the mayor soon. She will make the final report available in Dropbox.

Imagine Bloomington committee: Maggie is the BCOS representative to the steering committee, which is currently working on setting specific goals for the new comprehensive plan.

New business:

Claire proposed a new project to showcase local efforts to implement alternatives to traditional lawns. She's interested in finding good local examples to highlight. Rita expressed interest; Claire will also coordinate with the Environmental Commission. The slogan: Grow don't Mow.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at **7:40** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, June 11th, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 9th, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, David Rollo, Rita Drescher, David Parkhurst, Gary Charbonneau, Randy Cassidy, Claire Cumberland.

Regrets: Jacqui Bauer, Ashley Cranor, Andrea Jobe, Cynthia Schultz, Maggie Sullivan.

Staff: Ian Champ.

Public: Diane Jung (Environmental Commission).

Acting Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Announcements:

- o Randy Cassidy announced two upcoming social events:
 - o Taste of Bloomington is approaching next week (6/22/2013).
 - o Jazz festival is coming up next August.
- o David Rollo introduced a point of consideration regarding limits to growth:
 - o Mr. Rollo proposed crafting a limits to growth statement for the Imagine Bloomington process.
 - o Mr. Charbonneau provided a list of source materials for considering the limits to growth concept.
 - o A draft statement will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.
 - o Center for a Steady State Economy (CASSE) provides a pre-written statement which communities can adopt too.
- o Ms. O'Donnell spoke to the community conservation:
 - o \$250,000 settlement from a recent Sierra Club settlement.
 - o They are now looking to bring eight new congregation into their organization
- o Mr. Jewel:
 - o Bloomingfoods will be opening their new Elm Heights location early next month.
- o Mr. Marc Tschida, Nonprofit Central Coordinator:
 - o "Make Mention" will be on August 24th (the same day as the Hoosier to Hoosier sale).
 - o The event will be sponsored by Bloominglabs.
 - o It will be a whole day of creating things out of recycled and reusable materials.

Approval of Minutes:

The May 2013 minutes were approved as written unanimously.

Presentation on Nonprofit Central:

- Marc Tschida, Nonprofit Central Coordinator, delivered the presentation.
- MCPL received funding from the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County for the creation of a dedicated resource center for nonprofits within the community.
- Nonprofit Central (NPC) is located on the second floor of the library right in front of the Indiana Room.
- NPC is staffed M-F from 1-5pm by staff with nonprofit experience and knowledge.
- Additional hours can be arranged on request by contacting Mr. Tschida.
- NPC offers information ranging from Board retention to fund development.
- The three primary resources are:
 - Access to staff.
 - Access to physical books.
 - Access to a foundation database.
- Additionally, NPC offers a community organization database for all Bloomington nonprofits.
- Training courses and workshops will be offered for nonprofit-oriented training sessions.
- Three trainings are currently scheduled.
- In addition, a training program focusing on TechSoup will be provided soon.
- Last week's open house had roughly 40 individuals from the public come to see NPC.
- Starting on June 20th, there will be a bi-weekly newsletter covering a wide range of topics and pertinent information.
- For more information, contact Mr. Tschida at npc@mcpl.org.

Report from the Chair:

- Taste of Bloomington:
 - Volunteers are greatly appreciated to help further recycling efforts for the event.
- Imagine Bloomington:
 - Imagine Bloomington is designed to help us anticipate where the community will be in 2040.
 - The Community Planning portion of Imagine Bloomington will have a meeting next week to address the inclusion of community agriculture.
- Green Pledge:
 - The Commission is continuing to develop a community Green Pledge which individuals, businesses and organizations would be able to sign
- Green Spots tour:
 - Will occur on June 29th.
 - Green Spots Parks and Recreation program which highlights the efforts of passionate locals.
 - The event is a tour of all the green spots around Bloomington which are sponsored by individuals.

Committee Reports:

- Environmental Commission and Planning Committee:

- The co-housing project is coming up soon and the proposal is of interest to the Commission.
- Co-housing units are not currently covered by the City's ordinances.
- The Commission should continue to monitor the progression of the project.
- The site will be managed like a co-op in that there will be many housing units, but also many shared spaces.
- This project could lend the opportunity to increase the predictability of our permitting process.
- Examples of similar successful projects include:
 - Hartwood Co-op in Bayfield, Colorado.
 - Trillium Housing unit in Portland, Oregon.
- Green Business Certification Committee:
 - The Green Drinks presentation allowed for some good collection of public input.
 - The process to craft an effective Green Business Certificate will continue.
- Global Reporting Initiative project:
 - The project is ongoing.
- Grow It, Don't Mow It update:
 - Work on this project continues and the proposal continues to be shaped.
 - A proposed list made available to the public of all the plants which fall outside of regulated height restrictions (6") would help the public understand and participate in this project.
 - Potential future press could help increase program exposure.

New Business:

- Ms. Drescher commented on community Permaculture:
 - Spring garden awards should recognize Permaculture as well.
 - Consider proposing a permaculture award for the spring gardening award.
- Mr. Cassidy questioned how the Commission maintains a clearinghouse of information and resources:
 - An example of this concept is, is there a clearinghouse of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations information?
 - The Local Growers Guild might be a good resource for this CSA information.
 - Perhaps the Local Growers Guild web link should be added to the City's Website.
- Ms. Drescher questioned sustainability visibility in the news:
 - Specifically, an example was given on how the Herald Times has not published their sustainability notifications in a while.
 - The Commission agrees that a lack of content might have been the cause.
 - The larger question remains how to maintain up-to-date and accurate information and get it out to the public as soon as possible?

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **6:49** pm.

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, July 9, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Rita Drescher, Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, George Huntington, Gary Charbonneau, Randy Cassady, David Rollo, David Parkhurst, Andrea Jobe.

Regrets: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Ian Champ

Acting Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:01** pm.

Announcements:

- o Molly:
 - o The Unitarian Universalist Church saved \$262 on their utility bill since the installation of their new solar panels.
- o Andrea Jobe:
 - o Middleway House's rooftop garden is in need of a few interns.
- o Jacqui Bauer:
 - o Hoosier to Hoosier is fast approaching and will be held at 1525 S. Rogers St. (just south of the Community Kitchen) this year.
 - o 6 trailers have been filled with donations so far, but H2H is still accepting donations.
 - o Volunteers are still needed for donation pick-ups, event set-ups.
 - If you would like to volunteer, please email h2h@indiana.edu.

Approval of Minutes:

The June 2013 minutes were approved as written unanimously.

Presentation on the Open Streets event:

- o Anna Dragovich, could not be in attendance, but Jacqui Bauer delivered a brief presentation in her place.
- o Open Streets projects are also known as "ciclovia."
- o This event involves closing a street typically used for automotive traffic in favor of bike and pedestrian traffic.
- o Event is intended to challenge the ways we use space in cities.
- o City and county staff are still working to finalize the location for the event.
- o The event is still seeking sponsorship from local businesses and volunteers to help run various activities along the route.
- o The event will be held on September 22nd.
- o Discussion:

- Mr. Huntington: Will this be a one-time-only event or will it become a more frequent event (like San Francisco)?
 - The interest is certainly there among the organizers, but this year's event is more of a pilot project to gauge community interest and buy-in.
- Mr. Jewel: Will Anna be able to attend the next meeting to give us some final details?
 - Yes, we believe so.

Report from the Chair:

- BCOS leadership transition.
 - Transition of leadership will be postponed until our next meeting.
- Availability for August meeting.
 - The August meeting will be cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Meetings will resume in September.
- Report on GreenSpots tour.
 - Report will be delivered at the next BCOS meeting.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

- Sustainability Partnership (SuPar) grant update.
 - A second round of sustainability partnership grants were due at the beginning of July.
 - Nine submissions were made and the funding decisions will be delivered at the end of July.
 - Submissions include increased recycling efforts at the IU Greek houses, lighting upgrades, and so forth.
- Report from Taste of Bloomington.
 - This year's recycling efforts greatly expanded the availability of recycling opportunities at the Taste.
 - Potentially, for future Taste events, we should coordinate with the Taste volunteer coordinator to strengthen the drive, perhaps many months ahead of time.
 - Is there a way to incentivize vendors to offer a rebate for proof of recycling?
 - (Ex: offering \$.50 off a drink if a person brings their cup back to the vendor to be recycled, etc.).
 - Is there a way we can incentivize vendors to use recyclable or reusable supplies (cups, plates, etc.)?
 - Almost all comments from the public and event staff about the recycling stations are very positive.
 - Perhaps labeling the recycling bins (much more clearly) would help increase recycling rates.
 - Is there an event policy in Bloomington for recycling?
 - There is a draft policy, but it hasn't been officially adopted yet.
 - As a counterpoint, it should be considered that more barriers to holding an event led by volunteers, could eventually end up stopping the event in its tracks.

Committee Reports:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee:
 - No report this meeting.
- STAR committee report: Update on food indicators:
 - No report this meeting.
- Green business certification committee update:
 - Cynthia, David and Jeff are working to integrate the comments they have received thus far.
- City Zoning:
 - The meeting with the City Planning Department to discuss barriers to urban agriculture had to be postponed, but it will be rescheduled soon.
- Global Reporting Initiative project update:
 - Revisions have been made, but at this moment the GRI is not in a publishable format.
- Imagine Bloomington update:
 - This round of discussions revolved around creating draft 10-year goals related to the environment, energy, sustainability, etc. (among other topics).
 - Information on the Imagine Bloomington process and proposals can be found at www.bloomington.in.gov/ImagineBloomington.
 - There will be three additional steering committee meetings over the next few months.
 - Public comment will be integrated into the draft goals to ensure the Imagine Bloomington final document reflects the interests of the community.
 - The next steering committee meeting will be held in City Hall's City Council Chambers at 4pm on July 31st.
 - The finalized plan will be released in early 2014.

New Business:

- Randy Cassady: Who writes the grants for BCOS, the city, the county, etc?
Would it be possible for BCOS to outsource this process at all?
 - Jacqui: We do not have a designated grant writer in the City, but typically the staff member most involved in the process is the one who writes the grant in question.
 - Ashley: I recommend compiling any information necessary for a grant which might apply to a project before the grant is opened up for the year.
 - Jeff Jewel agrees that this would be good to look into to make sure the commission can jump on these opportunities.
- Randy Cassady: Could we look into revamping our parking spaces in an isolated, test location to allow for smaller spaces for smart cars, etc?
 - This might be a good comment for the Imagine Bloomington process.
 - BCOS could take a position on this and push this idea to the council or to the City's Department of Public Works.
 - The system does seem to function (from IU's experience).
 - Randy Cassady will draft a position statement for BCOS about this issue.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at **6:56** pm.



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 10, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, David Parkhurst, David Rollo, Molly O'Donnell, Rita Drescher, Andrea Jobe, Jeff Jewell, Gary Charbonneau

Regrets: George Huntington, Claire Cumberland, Bill Brown, Randy Cassady

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Anna Dragovich (City Planning)

Public: Annalise (new county intern), Carissa (Environmental Commission) and Tim Gates

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

Announcements:

Tim Gates from a new green building-oriented student group on campus introduced himself. They will work with the local chapter of the USGBC, organize tours, etc.

Dave P mentioned a recent article in the NY Times written by recent administrators of the EPA calling for a carbon tax.

Ashley announced a garden work day at the Youth Services Building on September 28 from 1-5pm. She will share more details soon. She also said the Monroe County Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission will be meeting tomorrow.

Jacqui announced an upcoming Local First fall kick-off event on October 2 starting at 5pm.

Dave R. expressed concern about a piece of legislation to be considered tomorrow night by the council. A portion of the legislation addresses salvage of metals, and attempts to do a better job of tracking stolen property. However, it may have the unintended consequence of reducing the ability of salvage yards to accept small quantities of recyclables from individuals.

Approval of Minutes:

The July minutes were approved unanimously.

Open Streets Bloomington – presentation by Anna Dragovich

Bloomington's first Open Streets event will take place on September 22 from 10am – 3pm on W. Kirkwood between Rogers and College.

These types of events involve closing streets to cars and opening them to people – also called ciclovía or Sunday Streets. There are 90 going on nationwide, but originated in Bogota Colombia. Basic idea is to promote all kinds of physical activity and active transportation, highlight local businesses.

Activities will include yoga, hula hooping, salsa dancing, ziplining, etc.

People can contribute to the Kickstarter campaign, sponsoring, leading an activity, volunteering, publicizing, and attending.

Report from the Chair:

Maggie and Cynthia are stepping down as co-chairs, and Molly and Jeff are stepping in. Maggie motioned for approval of this leadership transition, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Imagine Bloomington – a public meeting will be held on September 12 to review draft goals related to transportation, economic and sustainable development, and government services. Maggie encouraged everyone to participate in the process in some way.

Future speakers – someone from Bloomingfoods to discuss opening a community grocery store; Shahzeen Attari to discuss energy efficiency and behavior; someone to discuss green jobs/economic and sustainable development

November meeting – Jacqui will check if this conflicts with Veterans Day.

Cynthia also noted that BCOS needs to schedule a report to the Council toward the end of the year.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator:

Jacqui reported on another successful Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale. The effort diverted an estimated 45 tons of waste from the landfill and raised \$33k.

Committee Report:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee: Dave R. has not been able to attend a meeting recently so no report.
- STAR: Maggie is aiming to have info on the food section next month. For the next sections, will potentially look at economy and employment/green business, and to partner with the Environmental Commission to address toxics. Ashley will follow up with Jacqui and Maggie to discuss the next steps further.

Molly suggested that members identify areas of the STAR report that are of interest, and take the initiative to provide reports, write editorials, and otherwise increase the profile of different issues in the community.

Maggie will share a link to the sustainability topics pages of the City website. Some of the pages and topics have no content yet because the commission hasn't addressed them yet.

Maggie and Jeff met with County Planning today to discuss their plans and policies related to urban agriculture and local food. They'll be looking to share some ideas and get public input over the winter. The general tone was very positive.

Ashley noted that the County's effort to examine uses for the Thompson property could relate directly to the issues of urban ag. Having 90 acres right in the middle of downtown creates unique opportunities.

Dave P noted that we should try to include populations like veterans in our efforts.

- Global Reporting Initiative: Cynthia and Molly have been working with Ball State and the Kelley School to develop a report through the Global Reporting Initiatives process. The draft report is being reviewed and will hopefully be online soon. Cynthia asked for input from BCOS by Friday (9/13).

Jacqui will take the final draft to the mayor's office for final review.

Adjournment:

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

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, October 8, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, George Huntington, Gary Charbonneau, Randy Cassidy, David Rollo, David Parkhurst, Andrea Jobe, Rita Drescher, Claire Cumberland.

Regrets: Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz.

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Acting Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:04** pm.

Announcements:

- o Molly:
 - o The Citizens' Climate Lobby will be held on October 26 at the Unitarian Universalist Church.
 - o She will be organizing a third workshop on facility management at local churches called "Chasing Sacred Air" December 4.
- o Jacqui:
 - o The City is looking for volunteers to assist with a road user study that will be used to develop a baseline for a grant received that will try to address conflicts among road users.

Approval of Minutes:

The October 2013 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Presentation on a proposed co-housing development (Marion Sinclair , Mark Cornett):

Dave R. introduced the proposed co-housing project, which was brought to his attention by members working on the development. He noted that the project is very much in line with the goals articulated in the Redefining Prosperity report.

Co-housing: compact developments with many shared amenities.

Features of co-housing development: The future residents are involved in the design of their own community; parking must be at the periphery rather than centrally located; residents are involved in managing the development.

The proposed development is located at the south end of Maxwell St., just north of the YMCA. The total size is only 2.5 acres, so fairly small for a co-housing development. Buildings are clustered with central common space and community gardens.

The units are joined in twos to minimize construction materials and to insulate each other; they are also oriented to allow installation of solar and will be built with green materials.

Past experience with co-housing show that people drive less and generally live more sustainably than those living in more typical settings. The setup will also allow the residents to share items like lawn mowers and tools, so it reduces material consumption.

The group first met with the Plan Commission two years ago. They also had two dozen people show up to a walk-through of the property, and have met with various city departments to identify what their requirements might be. They continue to gather additional ideas, like adding rain barrels and rooftop gardens.

Next steps include getting approval to rezone the site as a Planned Unit Development; they are also exploring whether to connect Short St. – they are hoping to connect the street for bikes and pedestrians only, but also are in discussions with the city about allowing car connectivity and access to emergency vehicles.

Responses to questions/comments:

- Hoping to break ground next spring.
- The community should consider white roofs.
- Will encourage recycling and composting.
- Will operate by consensus as much as possible.
- Zoning hurdles: Short St. connectivity (they have received quote for emergency access only; city now seeking 2-lane road with sidewalks, which is beyond their budget).
- Have 5 full members, many associate members, and 50-60 serious expressions of interest.
- The development will adhere to the principles of LEED for neighborhoods/LEED for homes, but will likely not certify. Also exploring a community solar installation.
- Will be marketing broadly to insure that the residents are intergenerational.
- Claire suggested that Dandelion Village might be a source of information about accommodating emergency access.

Dave R. asked BCOS to consider submitting a letter of support to the Plan Commission and the City Council. The commission voted unanimously in support.

Report from the Chair:

Molly reviewed the newly released national STAR Community Index. This index overlaps with BCOS's existing rating system. She suggested the idea of having each member get involved with tracking the various types of data associated with STAR, and also help to publicize the community's performance to the public.

Jacqui will provide the summary document and topic matrix to everyone. Molly asked that each person identify 3 or so topic areas of interest.

Commission membership: George Huntington will be stepping down at the end of his term in January 2014.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Open Streets: the event was very successful, with an estimated 1800 attendees.

Civil Streets: Jacqui reviewed the Civil Streets initiative, which will be launched at the Bike Summit, tentatively scheduled for October 26. She will share more information on the initiative soon.

Committee Reports:

- o Environmental Commission Planning Committee:
 - o No report this meeting.
- o STAR committee report: Update on food indicators:
 - o No report this meeting.
- o Green business certification committee update:
 - o Cynthia and Jeff are now considering working with BIRA on a Green Restaurant Certification.
- o Imagine Bloomington update:
 - o Dave R. and Dave P. attended the September 12 public meeting, but the tone of the meeting didn't allow for a lot of input on specific issues of interest.
 - o Dave P. thought the complaints at the meeting reflected concerns that the process wasn't considering the needs of the least advantaged members of the community.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

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

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, November 12, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: David Parkhurst, Gary Charbonneau, Maggie Sullivan, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Cynthia Schultz, Rita Drescher, Claire Cumberland, Andrea Jobe

Regrets: Bill Brown, Ashley Cranor, Randy Cassady, David Rollo, Jacqui Bauer

Co-Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:01** pm.

Announcements:

- o Molly
 - o Facility Managers Meeting for "Chasing Sacred Air" in faith communities on December 4th. Meeting will be held to discuss air leakage.
 - o Citizens Climate Lobby had initial meetings with 29 attending first and 23 attending second. Herald Times Sunday editorial came out recently supporting idea of carbon tax and dividend, which would tax carbon at source allowing households get money returned.
 - o Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light part-time job posting. Resumes and cover letters should be sent to SeventhDayinitiative@gmail.com or contact Molly.

Approval of Minutes:

The October 2013 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Co-housing Development Commission Statement (David Parkhurst and Marion Sinclair):

- o Marion Sinclair: Before filing, project needs clarification on emergency access road vs. two way street with sidewalks that residents collectively do not want.
- o Has met with mayor and Tom Micuda, with the Bloomington Planning Department, and is working to provide them more information with hopes to file at beginning of 2014.
- o Dave P. and Marion have drafted the supporting Commission Statement and would like to send it to City Council and Planning Commission.
- o Molly O. and Jeff J. will sign statement on behalf of commission. Group agrees and puts into motion.

Report from the Co-Chair:

Molly O. discussed the STAR community sustainability ranking system. Each BCOS member is being asked to select a category, and to track the various types of data associated with each topic. They are also asked to help publicize the community's performance to the public. Next steps include narrowing down each category, filling in

the gaps on the matrix, and working with community and other members towards completion. Molly is sending members a link to access the files with Google Docs.

Commission membership: There is a new member opening on BCOS for mayoral appointment. Looking for someone with an education background or education experience to recommend to the mayor. Another option is to look at gaps in the STAR Community matrix.

Committee Reports

- Environment Commission Planning Committee:
 - No report at this meeting
- Green business certification committee update:
 - Jeff J. had initial meeting with a member of BIRA (BLOOMINGTON INDEPENDENT RESTAURANT ASSOC.) and is in the process of reviewing green dining material. Bloomington won't have to reinvent the wheel to accomplish our own plan.
- Imagine Bloomington update:
 - Working through public input and committee will be picking back up at first of next year.
- GRI Report
 - Cynthia S. announces that the GRI Report is finished.
 - Next steps will be to write an annual report present to City Council. Molly will draft the report and share with the BCOS leadership team. Jacqui will set a date to present during the public comment section during an open Council meeting.
- Geography Colloquium
 - David P. reports that the recent "Dietary Choices and Global Warming" presentation was a success. Topics such as eating organic and local, and sustainable food projects happening at four US universities were discussed.

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned **6:30** pm

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, December 10, 2013
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2013

Roll Call:

Members present: David Parkhurst, George Huntington, Gary Charbonneau, Maggie Sullivan, Jeff Jewel, Molly O'Donnell, Claire Cumberland, Andrea Jobe, Ashley Cranor,

Regrets: Bill Brown, Randy Cassady, David Rollo, Cynthia Schultz, Rita Drescher

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Co-Chair Jeff Jewel called the meeting to order at **6:04** pm.

Announcements:

- o Molly
 - o Facility Managers Meeting for "Chasing Sacred Air" in faith communities was held on December 4th. About 14 attended..
- o Ashley
 - o Hosted a community meeting on the Thompson property. Well attended, many ideas generated but not a lot of detailed proposals. The Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission will discuss the proposals further at a meeting on December 11.

Approval of Minutes:

The November 2013 minutes were unanimously approved with one correction.

Discussion of STAR Communities rating system

Molly O. discussed the STAR community sustainability ranking system. Each BCOS member is being asked to select a category, and to track the various types of data associated with each topic.

If the commission is working on 6-8 topics at any given time, how can we best identify the contacts and resource we know of that relevant individuals should be working with?

- *ask members to share contacts on each topic during each meeting
- *also share contact ideas for topic areas that might better be handled by other commissions or agencies

Jacqui will share the Technical Guide on Google Drive. Members should review the pages associated with their sections, and then work with other commission members to identify resources and contacts.

- *Jacqui will also modify Google Categories and Interests sheet to include one topic per tab, with all details for that topic area; she will also create a basic info sheet on the process.

Jacqui asked that members notify others on the commission about contacts they are making so communication can be coordinated if possible. She also asked for members to notify her when they contact city employees.

All members are asked to make a first review of their topic areas and develop a list of possible resources and contacts before the meeting in January.

Report from the Co-Chair:

The annual BCOS report to City Council will be next week, on December 18.

A support letter for the proposed co-housing development was shared with the mayor, the Plan Commission, and Council.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator

Beat the Meter Blitz is going on this week.

The City completed lighting upgrades in several Parks facilities in response to a double incentive program offered through Energizing Indiana.

Committee Reports

- Imagine Bloomington update:
 - Working through public input and committee will be picking back up at first of next year.
- GRI Report
 - Cynthia S. announces that the GRI Report is finished and has been approved

New Business:

No new business.

Adjournment:

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