

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2014

Roll Call:

Members Present: Joseph Kielar, Jana McGee, Andrea Jobe, Maggie Sullivan, Molly O'Donnell, Jeff Jewell, Jessica Pittman

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau, Bill Brown, Cynthia Schultz, David Rollo, Randy Cassady

Staff: Laurel Waters

Chair: Jeff Jewell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Announcements

Molly O'Donnell reported the Inter-faith Coalition of Environmentalists Youth are holding a People's Climate Gathering on September 21st at 1:00 at the Court House Square. There will be live streaming on Facetime with people at the NYC march. There is a bus going to NYC, but it is full. There are two college groups from Indianapolis who wanted to get a bus, so there will be another bus going.

Maggie Sullivan reported Open Streets Bloomington are holding their second event, Sunday, October 5th in conjunction with Buskirk Chumley. Buskirk Chumley is sponsoring an event promoting bicycles in Bloomington. The Buskirk Chumley will be showing Breaking Away and several short films.

Andrea stated the Rooftop Garden e-mail has not gone out because there are some talks about changing the overall concept and moving more towards a self-sufficient, less labor-intensive garden plan. She added she will probably not be able to get to the planning for a couple of months.

Andrea also stated she could not make it to the next Environmental Commission Meeting. It will meet on September 18 at 7:00 p.m. in McCloskey. She asked if anyone else could go to let her know.

Andrea stated two weeks ago she sent out the Greenspace Trends Report. There was a brief discussion about the report. The report showed an increase in greenspace. The parameters have been changed, as well as how greenspace is defined.

Jana believed she could attend the EC meeting. Joe stated if something comes up and Jana cannot attend, he believes he could as well.

Jeff reminded everyone that Lotus Music Festival is coming up - September 18th through the 21st. Jeff also reported he had gone to Green Drinks, where there was a talk about preservation as a green building technique.

Approval of Minutes

It was explained the minutes from March were not approved in April due to lack of quorum. However, they were not included in the packet for this meeting so were not approved.

The August minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

a. STAR Communities - This will be a class project for Bill Brown's class. There are about 17 students broken down into three groups. Each group will have three sections of the STAR report. The students have not figured out exactly what they will do, and may need help. They have talked about going and interviewing businesses along the B-line Trail to see if their business has improved.

b. Georgetown University Energy Prize - Molly gave a brief update about a couple of people she has contacted. This is going to be a challenge to reduce energy use in communities across the country; Monroe County will face a particular challenge because of the number of rental properties in town. Molly reported there were 72 applicants, and 52 made this round. The next application is due November 10th. Public comment will be done next Saturday at the Farmer's Market, and a second community meeting will be held the evening of October 16th.

Jana stated she is on the education committee and they met this afternoon. The rules have been changed so that now all schools in the county have to be included, not just the public schools. There is brainstorming on a strategy to reach out to those schools and how long it will take to get their answers back.

Committee reports

a. Environmental Commission Planning Committee - Andrea reported the Chair has resigned and will be moving to Colorado for a job opportunity. One of their hot topics right now is discussion about by-laws. They are asking attorneys for advice and putting together a committee. Andrea stated this started her thinking about the by-laws for BCOS, and asked if that document was available. Since there are new members it would be good to be informed.

There is a committee being formed for the plastic bag ban. Sean, the vice-chair of EC stated there were 2 trillion bags produced per year. The average use of a plastic bag is 12 minutes. This committee is looking at all options, instead of banning them all together, possibly adding a fee, or some incentive for folks who return them. They will have a meeting this month, on September 15th, location is still to be determined. Sean Gorman is their vice - chair and gave his e-mail address.

Another initiative is tree protection during construction work.

b. Imagine Bloomington Update - the steering committee has not met.

c. Environmental Commission update - Dave Rollo was not present to give a report.

Molly followed up on the question as to the BCOS by-laws. She has received a copy of the code. Molly will e-mail the code to everyone.

New Business

There will be a social mixer after the meeting.

There will be two guest speakers at the next meeting.

Molly asked that anyone who has done any work on STAR Communities and hit a roadblock to let her know and she will pass it along to Bill.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.