

MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY  
Monday, November 10, 2014

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 9, 2014

**Roll Call:**

Members Present: Andrea Jobe, Molly O'Donnell, Jessica Pittman, Maggie Sullivan

Regrets: Gary Charbonneau, David Rollo, Joseph Kielar, Jeff Jewell, Bill Brown, Cynthia Schultz, Randy Cassady, Jana McGee

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: Alison Zook, Ross Eiler

Molly called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Announcements**

The local energy plan for the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition has been submitted.

Andrea shared a series of children's books by Christian Dorian that illustrate how the world works, how we make stuff, etc.

She also attended a meeting of the Bring Your Bag Bloomington Committee and will continue to attend these meetings. This is a citizen effort to reduce use of single-use plastic bags in Bloomington.

**Approval of Minutes**

There was not a quorum present to approve the minutes.

**Presentation: Alison Zook from Local First Bloomington**

Alison is the membership liaison for Local First Bloomington (LFB). LFB just launched a "Shift Your Shopping" campaign to encourage local residents to support local businesses during the holiday shopping season.

Alison also noted that she sells reusable AZ Vintage bags that customers can bring back for discounts. This might be a way to support the local plastic bag effort.

Alison could return to a future meeting to do a demonstration of the local first multiplier effect. Jacqui suggested that she return early in 2015 for a presentation.

LFB has 56 members, and hosts educational and social events throughout the year. The LFB holiday party to launch their annual gift guide will be held the day after Thanksgiving.

Membership costs \$120 for a business, \$90 for a non-profits, and \$15 for individuals.

**Presentation: Ross Eiler, Reinvest IU**

Ross is part of an effort to encourage IU Foundation to divest from the largest carbon-emitting corporations, headed up by the Graduate and Professional Student Organization (GPSO). If the current

investment (roughly \$800m) in the fossil fuel industry could be diverted to alternative energy or other cleaner industries, it could have an enormous impact.

The GPSO, Indiana University Student Association and other student organizations have signed onto the effort, and will be presenting to the IU Foundation early in 2015.

Jacqui will confirm whether there is any issue with the commission signing onto the effort, and the commission can vote at the next meeting.

### **Report from the Chair**

There are three vacancies on the Commission. Please share any possible candidates with the co-chairs.

Priorities for 2015:

- Support the Monroe County Energy Challenge
- Promote ordinances that will further sustainability goals: plastic bag ordinance, urban-ag friendly policies
- Make Bloomington a major food hub

Molly will present to Council on December 3 about BCOS's accomplishments and goals for next year.

STAR Communities: The City will renew its membership for 2015 and aim to complete data gathering and report it via the website next year.

### **Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

The Monroe County Energy Challenge (MCEC) Task Force is continuing to move forward on the assumption that we will be accepted into the semi-finals, and will aim for a kick-off in January.

Molly now has a Task of the Month checklist for renters, and has created a renters guide as part of the MCEC effort.

### **Committee reports**

*Environmental Commission update* – Andrea attended the most recent meeting. The Climate Action Plan is not as far along as they had hoped, so the new intern is trying to restart the process.

They will also be hiring a new intern soon.

*Imagine Bloomington update*: Maggie has not heard any updates on the process, but is willing to continue representing BCOS if that is acceptable. She will contact the Planning & Transportation Department to see if they have suggestions.

### **New Business**

No new business

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.