

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

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

Jana called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

Present: Jana McGee, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Jessica Pittman, Rebecca Swanson, Molly O'Donnell, Ethan Horvath, Ryan Conway

Regrets: Bill Brown, Dave Rollo

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Public: One member of the public was in attendance

Public Comment: No public comment was received.

Announcements:

Two new members have been appointed to the Commission. Please welcome Ethan Horvath and Ryan Conway. Ryan is the secretary of the Center for Sustainable Living and the chair of the Food Policy Council. Ethan is a former intern with Jacqui and a current masters student in SPEA.

The Yes for MCCSC campaign is looking for volunteers to help with outreach around the upcoming referendum. See yesformccsc.org for more information.

James Farmer from IU will be holding a food security summit this coming Thursday. Ryan will report on this at the next meeting. CSL will also be hosting a memorial for Lucille Bertuccio on August 7th.

A vigil for the victims of the Orlando shooting will be held tonight at 7:30 outside City Hall.

Jana suggested we might use a site called ClimateAccess.org as a way to join discussions about climate change. Adaptationprofessionals.org might be another resource. Sustainability Defined and Direct Connect are podcasts that might be good resources for the commission.

United Cities and Local Governments are other resources that members might find useful.

Approval of Minutes: Jacqui did not send the minutes so we will approve these next month

Presentation about proposed Duke substation by Lucy Schaich

Lucy resides in the Maple Heights neighborhood, where Duke Energy has proposed to place a substation (on the corner of 11th and Rogers).

The noise levels are estimated at 62 dB at the transformer; the site will include 8 tall poles, a switchgear box, etc. The need for the substation has been driven by the new apartment buildings, dorms, hotels, etc. that have been built downtown and on campus.

In addition to noise and aesthetic impacts, the neighborhood is concerned about the impact on community development. This area will act as a gateway for northwest neighborhoods that have struggled in the past but that are starting to see positive developments.

The site plan is not well integrated into the future plans for the area as an extension of downtown. A number of cities have pushed for more urban-style substations (see examples from Traverse City, DC, and elsewhere). Even if Duke wants to stay with this site, the design could be much more compatible with the surrounding area. Funding for these cases varies – some are built by public utilities, some are public/private partnerships, etc.

Next steps: Council will need to approve the vacation of the alley, so the neighborhood has been working closely with council; council facilitated discussion with Duke. The topic will be discussed at the June 22 city council meeting. BCOS could sign onto the petition, write a letter commenting on the design, and/or speak at the council meeting.

Report from the Chair:

Environmental Commission update: presentation by Christy Langley, new director of the Planning and Transportation Department on the GPP, and by a representative from Ray's Trash and Recycling. The Bloomington Environmental Action Plan has been revised and will be shared again for input.

Climate Action Plan support letter: a subcommittee met mid-month and suggested the commission support both action on climate change and on the proposed carbon fee and dividend proposal.

Report from the Sustainability Coordinator:

Volunteers are needed over the next two weeks for both H2H and Explore Energy.

Website organization discussion: postponed until next month

Committee reports and updates

1. Environmental Commission Planning Committee: no report
2. Environmental Commission: See report from the chair above
3. Bring Your Bag Bloomington update: no report

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Next Meeting: July 12th, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.