

MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Steve Ashkin, Bob Bent, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Jeff Mease, Cairril Mills, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, Toby Strout

Regrets: John West

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Assistant Economic Development Director of Small Business and Sustainable Development, Jenny Sumner, Sustainability Intern

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

Paul Schneller asked if the Sustainability Assessment Report would be presented to the Council and Mayor. BCOS is on the Council agenda to present later this year.

Buff Brown of Bloomington Transportation Options for People (BTOP) announced that BTOP is hosting the next speaker in their Livable Cities Speaker Series on Thursday, November 29, 2007 in Council Chambers from 7-9 p.m. Dr. Robert Cervero, from UC-Berkeley, will speak about transit issues.

Cody Young of Indiana Public Interest Research Group (INPIRG) announced that INPIRG and other campus and community groups held a press conference asking IU President McRobbie to sign the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. Young asked if BCOS would be willing to write a letter to McRobbie. Dave Rollo spoke at the press conference and said that the goals of the Presidents' Commitment are similar to those of BCOS.

There is group of visitors at tonight's meeting from the Leadership Bloomington course. There is a group interested in sustainability, and one interested in the environment.

Christine Glaser announced Weatherization Day sponsored by the SCCAP on Friday, November 16th at 11 a.m. The project will take place in a home, demonstrating how to measure energy efficiency in the home and how to make weatherization improvements.

Toby Strout announced that Middle Way House is having a celebration from 4-6 p.m. on Friday at their new building at 318 S. Washington. The building is incorporating sustainable concepts.

Cairril Mills announced that she had a housewarming party using earth friendly products, including 100% post-consumer waste napkins from Bloomingfoods, and paper cups, plates and bowls, and forks from www.earthfriendlyhome.com. She also attended a design conference where a “Five Courts” community collaboration project was held. The project created virtual courts in five communities, allowing participants in each community to play against one another. The conference also talked about the importance of designing recycling and other products to be as user friendly as possible. This concept can have both economic and social equity impacts according to Cairril.

Dave Rollo announced that he will be presenting peak oil taskforce legislation before committee on November 28th, with final action being taken December 5th.

George Huntington welcomed new BCOS member Steve Ashkin.

Discussion of Ordinance Revision

The idea of changing the BCOS ordinance to allow members from outside of City limits to be appointed was discussed. Catherine commented that the City might not have the legal authority to appoint people from outside the City limits, or to tell other jurisdictions to appoint people to BCOS. BCOS voted unanimously to include non-city representatives, if it is legal. Adam will investigate the legal questions, and will report next month.

Sustainability Assessment Report 2007

Jeff, Toby, and Dave are on the SAR 2007 committee. They had their first meeting, and will continue to meet every 2 weeks. The meeting notes are in the meeting packet for this month. The committee suggested that BCOS members rank the importance of each indicator from the original list, to provide guidance on including new indicators. The indicators from the 2006 report will be included again in the 2007 report.

Scott Morgan and Larry Baker, Solid Waste Management District

Scott gave an overview of the SWMD’s Green Business Network and the hazardous materials programs that the SWMD offers. Scott talked about issues of fluorescent light recycling. He said it costs 9 cents per foot for businesses to recycle fluorescent tubes. Since 1998, the state has given grant money to the SWMD to recycle bulbs, but has left it up to the SWMD to do outreach. They are in the process of revisiting their media materials to do more outreach. Dave Rollo asked if the SWMD would be able to handle 10,000 compact fluorescent bulbs, due to the promotion of CFLs by BCOS. Scott suggested that, unfortunately, not all of the bulbs would be given back to be recycled, but even if they were, they could simply run more shipments of CFLs to their processor in Wisconsin. Currently they have shipments about every 2 weeks. Larry talked about the role of the responsible dealer, saying that responsible dealers should not pick up trash that contains fluorescent tubes, but that in reality, this does happen.

Scott suggested that the most efficient way to improve recycling programs is to target residents, because they are largely exempt from recycling laws.

Scott also discussed the economics of recycling. He said that glass is the worst, in terms of economic pay back, and that most of the money is in fibers.

Dave Rollo asked about methane capture from the Monroe County Landfill, which is no longer in operation, but still under the control of the SWMD. Larry said that he has looked into this, and the landfill is not generating enough methane to have a burner. Another issue is the lack of high quality methane.

Larry also spoke about the need for an internal recycling process center in the Monroe County area. There is a business in Shelbyville, Indiana, that uses recycled glass, and its demand is increasing.

Larry and Scott also talked about the SWMD's contract with Hoosier Disposal. They said it expires in September, 2009. The current contract does not require Hoosier Disposal to report whether the materials they received from SWMD are being recycled. The contract also does not require Hoosier Disposal to track the end use of the materials. BCOS did request that further conversations take place regarding the end use of the recycled materials collected.

George Huntington announced that Bloomingfoods is interested in starting a pilot project for recycling CFLs.

Staff Report:

Adam spoke about the work that Mollie Lemon and Jenny Sumner were doing for the Environmental Commission on their green building guide. A draft of the brochure was presented, and commissioners concluded that including references to specific brands or suppliers would be problematic. Steve Ashkin suggested that the brochure be used to educate people on which questions to ask about specific products, rather than advocate for specific businesses. Dave Rollo suggested Steve attend the Environmental Commission meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Committee Reports

Initiatives:

George reported on the Change a Light Campaign. They have received responses from the letters that were sent out to community groups. Bloomingfoods is also running a program now where people can give \$2 to buy a bulb for a low income family. The program has about 200-300 donations already, and will continue through the holidays. HAND will distribute the bulbs when the program is complete. A few other grant opportunities have come up, including a grant from Patagonia. Bloomingfoods met with the Green Sanctuary Task Force at the UU Church to use them as a 501(c)3 pass through for the grant. There is also a possibility of grant money through Duke Energy. George also said Meadowpark Apartments has been working with its corporate office, and felt

confident that they would be able to order around 5,000 CFLs, likely in June or July as they prepare for students to come back.

John Hamilton presented sample designs for the BCOS logo developed by volunteers at the IU School of Fine Arts. The commissioners discussed the need to include “Bloomington Commission on Sustainability” and/or “BCOS” in the logo. This will allow community groups and events to receive the “stamp of approval” they requested in the initiatives process.

Education: There is an upcoming energy seminar. Energy Pros and Bob Geswine have committed to presenting next year as well, including a presentation on existing homes. The Education Committee is also working on new targeted outreach events for 2008. Carill suggested that they focus more on the economic and equity sides of sustainability.

Steve Ashkin announced that he launched the Cleaning Industry Climate Initiative (CICI). Dave Rollo asked him if he would be willing to do outreach to the Bloomington community, and he agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.