

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, October 9, 2007, 6:00 pm
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: George Huntington, Cairril Mills, John West, Catherine Stafford, Jeff Mease, Christine Glaser, Dave Rollo, Toby Strout

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

Absent: Bob Bent, John Hamilton

Call to Order: Called to order 6:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes from July 10th, 2007:

Minutes were approved with the following corrections: Spelling of Dan Gajus' name, and clarifying the second page, second paragraph concerning interviewers wanting key facts.

Public Comment:

Paul Schneller: Paul asked the Commission how they have been involved with Bioneers, and if they intend to get City folks together. The Commission responded that the announcement of Bioneers went out to the listserve. Commissioners also clarified that the listserve is a community listserve, which is different from the Yahoo Groups function that BCOS uses for internal communication. Adam will send out instructions for joining the listserve. Adam suggested working with Lucille from the Center for Sustainable Living to coordinate an event. However, because of the late notice of Bioneers, it was unclear how feasible this would be. Christine also suggested encouraging Team Green members to attend.

Announcements:

Catherine thanked Adam for making time to meet with Tom Evans' class at IU next week.

Dave Rollo presented the prospectus for creating a peak oil task force, as well as ordinance language. If commission members have comments on the ordinance, they should email Dave. He plans to introduce the ordinance in mid-November. He displayed a graph of global oil production and explained that production is in decline, and there is little new production that will come online. Dave also mentioned that he will be attending the 4th Annual Community Solutions Conference from October 26-28 in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The conference will discuss local community action to prepare for peak oil.

Toby commented that there is a lilac bush in full bloom.

Jeff presented copies of “Everything I want to do is Illegal: War stories from the Local Food Front” by Joel Salatin to each of the Commissioners, as well as staff. The Commission thanks Jeff for his donation.

IU Taskforce Update:

Jenny presented an outline of the IU Task Force report. Commission members commended the Task Force for its hard work, and encourage them to discuss social issues as well as environmental issues. When IU does not address social equity issues, students and others flood social service agencies.

Adam clarified that Paul Sullivan is no longer a commission member, due to the fact that he lives outside City limits. Steve Ashkin, who does green cleaning consulting, will be replacing Paul. Steve regrets that he could not make this month’s meeting, but will be at the November meeting.

Concerns about the appointment process were expressed. John West commented that that the Partnerships and Resources Committee had recommended getting someone on the commission from the IU administration. Adam said that the Mayor chose from a pool of applicants and there were no applications from IU employees. Toby clarified that the recommendation was to get someone from the senior administration. Cairril mentioned that the process for appointing commission members has not been public like when the commission was established. In order to have good BCOS recommendations, openings need to be better publicized. Catherine seconded.

Adam clarified that there is a City Council position open right now. The City clerk has advertised, and the Council committee will pick the member. Dave suggested that commission members send recommendations of commission members. Cairril thinks a press release should be sent out saying that there are openings.

George suggested that the commission discuss extending the ordinance to County residents at the next meeting. It’s too bad that the commission lost Paul on a technicality. Dave suggested that the Commission write a letter on the topic. When John West spoke with the Mayor, he was open to including County residents. Dave pointed out that there would be further issues to discuss, such as if the County Council would then make appointments.

Sustainability Assessment Report 2007:

Catherine mentioned that it has been one year since we’ve had a committee.

Adam spoke with Danise about staff resources. Adam will manage and administer production of the report including having regular meetings with both the SAR subcommittee and any volunteer resources such as IU students. Adam also requested that the commissioners should be engaged in finding resources at IU. When issues come up, a committee is needed to provide policy guidance.

Catherine suggested that we change the name of the committee to the “Sustainability Assessment Report Committee” since we have completed the “indicators” phase already. Catherine also mentioned that because the indicators committee had to cut down the number of indicators, she would hope that this year the number of indicators could be increased.

Catherine mentioned that the committee needs a timeline and committee members. Jeff volunteered to be on the SAR committee. Dave commented that he views the SAR like the Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators report. The first year it was just a skeleton, but then became more refined over time.

Dave and Toby will also join the SAR committee. Jeff will resign from the initiatives committee. The Commission thanked Jeff, Dave, and Toby for joining the SAR committee and Adam expressed the need for working committee meetings. He will set up the first SAR committee meeting. The committee will develop a timeline for the next BCOS meeting.

Old Business:

Dave asked about the time allocated from staff to BCOS issues. Adam responded that Jenny is available for 9 hours each week, Mollie is available for up to 4 ½ hours each week, and he will put in varying hours depending on the situation.

Christine asked about completing a greenhouse gas assessment, as part of the greenhouse gas task force recommendations. Adam suggested that decision was up to the commission.

Adam said that he is working to get Scott Morgan or Barry Lessow in for the next meeting.

Energy Star Challenge:

Last month the City participated in a webinar on the ENERGY STAR Challenge and promoting EE through the community. They provide resources including a toolkit on the ENERGY STAR concept, software programs, and a target finder and tracking package. Right now the City is considering whether to sign up for the challenge. Adam wants to explore the Chamber, Volunteer Network, and Downtown Bloomington. He also suggested that the Challenge fits into Education Committee and bigger concept of promoting sustainability. Christine confirmed that this does fit in with both the Education Committee and the GHG task force. She suggests attending the Oct 29 combined EC/BCOS Education Committees meeting. Adam will attend.

Adam commented that he attended the LEED-ND training and will follow the progress of pilot projects.

Team Green updates: Team Green is working on a paperless initiative. Cairril asked if the recommendations she sent about using recycled content paper were being considered. Adam said they will revisit that issue. John W. questioned whether the initiative will prevent paper from being printed, or just shift the burden of printing to the individual. Adam suggested that the paperless workgroup will address these issues.

Dave asked how we can get energy efficient appliances in the hands of low-income people? Adam explained that ENERGY STAR suggestions on how to address this and it is also something the Volunteer Network could help with.

Three webinar sessions about conducting GHG inventories are being offered by EPA. Adam will send out invitations to BCOS and the EC. Christine suggested that she will be there.

Chair's Report:

John H. is out of town, but George reported a few things. John is scheduled to present the current SAR report to the City Council in November. He has also set up a meeting with design folks at IU to develop a BCOS logo.

Adam was at the meeting, and the student working on the logo would like BCOS to brainstorm words related to sustainability. The words the commission came up with include: equity, environment, economy, green, local food, walking, community, entrepreneurship, innovation, participatory democracy, conservation, health, collaboration, clean water, consumption, local, resource, regenerative, restorative, sustainable, low-impact, secure, just, prosperous, life-sustaining, future generations, appropriate technology, compost, small, robust, social responsibility, transformative, happiness, responsible citizenship.

Jeff asked about the purpose of the logo, and it was clarified that a lot of people from the community wanted a logo to certify their events.

Committee Reports:

Initiatives Committee: George said that letters are going out this week to potential community partners and to report sales of CFLs. Bloomingfoods is also running a new program to address equity. Customers will be able to buy a CFL for a low-income recipient, and HAND will distribute. Toby is concerned about handling bulbs/educating people. Adam said that they can distribute information.

Cairril asked if George would consider doing a Speak Your Mind piece. He said he would be happy to, or Adam and Darcy could do.

Dave suggested considering using the "bring back" method, so there is an incentive to return CFLs. George asked Adam to discuss this with Darcy.

George also reported that they have just sold 100-150 bulbs to the UU church.

Education Committee: Christine reminded the commission that there is another seminar coming up Monday, October 15th at 7:00 pm. Realtors will be offered Continuing Education Credit. Last month's presentation was well attended and they had a good discussion. There is also a lot of interest in remodeling or refurbishing existing homes. Christine suggests this should be a larger focus of Education Committee next year.

Partnerships & Resources: John suggested a point that Paul Schneller made previously: we ought to collaborate more with the obvious partners in the community. We don't have ongoing dialogue, or buy-in for a continuous relationship. Toby suggested that we go talk to people in leadership positions. Cairill did speak to Rotary and has spoken with some representatives from the Chamber. She suggested that we approach the Chamber in a more delicate manner than in the past.

George said that he has friends who are builders, and they are using EE in new construction, and things like water heaters. This has increased over the past year.

Adam is putting together Green Building guide with the Environmental Commission. Paul Schneller suggests providing a checklist type of things builders can do. Paul has been asked by Kelley School of Business environmental club about developing list of what businesses can do.

Dave commented that he would like to hear feedback from developers about what incentives they would like to see.

Cairill made comment that she will be resigning at the end of her term and to make use of her while she's here.

New Business:

Jeff brought up the issue of recycling fluorescent tubes now. He suggested most people don't know that it's illegal to throw in dumpster. However, it costs \$2 to recycle the tubes. Adam will write a letter to the Solid Waste Board of Directors to start the conversation on this issue. A possible solution is an informational campaign on the penalty for throwing tube in the trash. It was suggested that having a fee placed at the retail level would be logistically complicated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.