

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday January 8, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

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

Regrets: Catherine Stafford

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Jenny Sumner

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. The December, 2007 minutes were approved unanimously with several noted corrections. One notable correction was the mention of "LEED certified carpet." Steve Ashkin reminded the group that the USGBC's LEED certification does not certify products.

Public Comment:

Paul Schneller announced that the final IU Sustainability Task Force report is online. Paul suggested having one City staff person as the point person for collaborating with IU. Paul also mentioned the Indiana Building Green Symposium being held January 31 – February 1st on the IUPUI Campus. Adam mentioned that he will be attending, along with several HAND staff members. Steve Ashkin also mentioned he has spoken with the Indiana Chapter of USGBC about bringing a conference to Bloomington.

Steve Forrest mentioned that Dan Burden, an expert on walkable communities, will be speaking in Council Chambers on January 19th from 10 am until noon.

Mike Steinhoff presented a report on Bloomington's street trees. The report quantifies the benefits of street trees and catalogues the diversity of species.

Announcements

John Hamilton suggested following up Charlottesville, North Carolina on the free bus month they held in October, 2007.

Steve Ashkin presented a CD of resources on green building that he has put together for state representative Matt Pierce as part of an effort to pass green building legislation in Indiana. Rep. Pierce will be distributing a CD to each representative.

Retreat Options

April 5th and April 26th are currently the best options for a retreat. George, Adam, and John Hamilton will work on getting a facilitator and a location. It was suggested that the retreat be longer, rather than shorter.

Committee Meeting Process

Adam announced that committee meetings need to be posted in accordance with open door laws. Keep Adam informed of committee meetings and he will post the notices.

Agenda Setting Rotation

Each month, a member of BCOS will be invited to provide input on the Agenda. This could be in the form of requesting a speaker. If there is a speaker, George Huntington suggested that some items like the committee reports and staff reports be submitted in written form. This would minimize the discussion of these items to questions.

Chair's Report

John Hamilton asked the commissioners to think about members and to also consider county residents as well. Interested persons can contact Adam and he will walk them through the application. Toby suggested that we talk about committees. John Hamilton said we could put the topic on next month's agenda.

Reports from Staff

The City is replacing street lights with LEDs. They will do a press release and media work after they have a few months of data. It was suggested that the benefit of LEDs also include the decreased labor involved, since they only need to be replaced every 7-8 years.

Bloomington Police Department has purchased a Ford Escape Hybrid for its school liaison officer.

The City is undertaking a vehicle inventory and looking at a new vehicle purchase policy.

Bloomington Transit is offering expanded night hours. This helps with equity issues.

Adam met with Patrick Kitchens, who publishes a Bloomington renewable energy newsletter. Patrick is willing to be a resource for BCOS.

Committee Reports

Sustainability Assessment Report- The committee has not met since the last BCOS meeting. Jeff Mease reported that he will step down from this committee. Steve Ashkin expressed interest in joining the committee. The committee needs to frame out a calendar for their work.

Initiatives- George Huntington reported that the Green Sanctuary group at the UU church picked up 250 CFLs for distributing to low income households. Chris Mills received \$700 from the Honors College to purchase bulbs for the Crestmont neighborhood. A progress bulb has been completed, and will be displayed in the City Hall atrium. Toby raised concerns about educating households about the mercury in CFLs. George commented that they do hand out a flyer with information. They had talked about developing a bundling station for used CFLs, but the MCSWD will only accept CFLs for free from residents. Steve Ashkin suggested bundling CFL recycling with batteries. George suggested doing more outreach, like a PSA. Dave Rollo mentioned that CFLs with a magnetic ballast can trigger migraines. CFLs with an electronic ballast are safe.

Finally, George mentioned that Jenny found data from Energy Star on the number of CFLs sold by big box stores in the Bloomington MSA. The number was more than 30,000 for the first part of 2007.

Education Committee: The energy seminars will continue in 2008, with one focusing on existing homes. Steve Ashkin offered his assistance in presenting a seminar on green cleaning.

Partnerships and Resources Committee: They did not meet, and are now down to one member.

Mayor's Letter:

A letter from Mayor Kruzan was presented to the commission, requesting proposals for funding, looking at opportunities within the business community. Christine mentioned that there was no stated dollar amount. John Hamilton said it was good to have the Mayor's intentions in writing.

George Huntington expressed thanks to Cairill Mills, John West, and Catherine Stafford for their service on the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.