

MINUTES

BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE McCLOSKEY ROOM OF CITY HALL, 401 NORTH MORTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

Roll Call

Members present: Robert Bent, Susan Brackney, Keith Clay, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, John West, Toby Strout

Staff present: Danise Alano, Asst. Director of Economic Development
Kären Sullivan, Intern, Office of the Mayor – BCOS
Mike Steinhoff, Intern, Commission on Sustainability

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Announcements

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by John Hamilton. Dave Rollo motioned for approval of the Minutes from the January 10th meeting and Cairril Mills seconded the motion. The January 10, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved.

Cairril Mills asked the Commission to please encourage friends to attend the focus groups. Danise Alano announced that there was a typo in the focus group invitation letter, the correct email address for people to R.S.V.P. to is sustain@bloomington.in.gov.

George Huntington announced that he was approached by the Green Acres Neighborhood Association to speak about the Commission.

Dave Rollo announced that he is planning on giving a talk about Peak Oil after the March Commission meeting at the Monroe County Public Library Auditorium at 7:30p.m.

Toby Strout mentioned that the Middleway House submitted a proposal to the USDA for a sustainable agriculture grant.

Keith Clay announced that he also submitted a grant proposal to the USDA to study invasive species.

Public Comment

Isabelle Piedmont, Chair of the Environmental Commission (EC) offered the EC's support in providing information about the environmental side of the sustainability indicators. She also expressed concern about not wanting to duplicate efforts between the two commissions. She also said that she would like the two commissions to collaborate on the U.S. Mayor's Agreement on Climate Change and on Earth Day events (Earth Day is April 22). Dave Rollo pointed to the EC's many reports (BEQI, Greenspace Report and the City of Bloomington Environmental Resource Inventory) as great sources of information. Catherine Stafford thanked Isabelle for her support and for providing information.

Buff Brown spoke about a citizen's group that he is involved with called "Bloomington Transportation Options for People" (BTOP, email is btop@bloomington.in.us). He passed around a draft brochure of speakers and forums that the group plans on hosting in the upcoming year, beginning with Dr. Donald Shoop, a parking expert from UCLA, on April 17. Buff also encouraged the Commission to include transportation issues in its sustainability indicators and in its agenda for the year.

Paul Schneller told the Commission that the President of the Union Board at IU is looking for speakers for the upcoming year. He also encouraged the Commission to not forget about students at IU as a resource and an outlet and mentioned that it may be a good idea for the Commission to have a "canned" presentation that members can use when speaking to public groups or at public events.

Committee Reports – Indicator Committee

Everything is set for the upcoming focus groups; please encourage your friends and associates to attend. The indicators that are listed on the website are not set in stone, they are merely guidelines and a starting point. The final indicators will be based on what comes out of the focus groups.

Committee Reports – Education Committee

The Education Committee is going to meet every other Monday at 5 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th at the Monroe County Public Library in room 1A. The committee would like more commission members to come to their meetings. There are three main areas on which the committee will focus: sustainability 101, monthly forums and a speaker's bureau. The committee requested more feedback from the Commission.

Old Business – Public Relations Plan

A press release about the upcoming focus groups went out from the City on February 6. There is an opportunity so speak on WFIU about the focus groups and the Commission.

Old Business – Intern Update

Keith Clay introduced Mike Steinhoff, the new intern for the Commission. Mike is a former intern for the EC and looks forward to being a link between the two groups. Darryl will be the intern coordinator, and will collaborate with Danise.

New Business – Committees and Committee Structure

John Hamilton referenced a memo he had provided to the Commission which requested the creation and outlined the purposes of two new committees: 1) Partnerships and Resources, and 2) Initiatives. The memo also suggested creating a Visioning and Strategic Planning Committee in 2007. Catherine Stafford motioned to accept the BCOS committee structure as outlined in the memo from John Hamilton, Susan Brackney seconded the motion. The Commission voted in favor of the proposed committee structure, with Cairril Mills objecting. The BCOS committee structure is as follows:

1. Indicator Committee

2. Education Committee
3. Partnership and Resources Committee
4. Initiatives Committee

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m. The next meeting will be held on March 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library in meeting room 1C.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kären Sullivan
Intern, Office of the Mayor, Commission on Sustainability
February 23, 2006