

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, May 11, 2009

6:00 p.m. Hooker Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Paul Schneller, Jim Sherman, Melissa Clark, George Huntington,
Andrew Davis, Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, Matt Laherty

Regrets: John Hamilton, Dan Killion,

Staff Present: Adam Wason

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Minutes for April 2009 were approved by general consent.

Public Comment:

Individuals from the public were not present at the May meeting.

Announcements:

Cynthia Schultz introduced Matt Laherty as the newest member of the BCOS. Matt spoke of his background in Smart Grid, Systems, Homes and Buildings. Members of the commission gave a little background about themselves.

Cynthia also announced that Laura Kamp has resigned from the commission.

Dave announced that the Peak Oil Task Force will complete their final report by the end of the summer. He also announced that the Peak Oil Task Force concluded that Peak Oil was reached in August of 2008. Dave also wanted to alert the commission to a memo from the Environmental Commission that the B-Line Trail has been planted by non-native trees and that the EC would like to have the trees replaced. Dave asked for the support of BCOS in this matter.

Cynthia announced that she will submit a one page proposal Jim Grandorf a Professor for an IU Accounting Class that will provide field consulting on how to coordinate a transportation summit.

Jim Sherman spoke of his concern for how the bypass widening and construction project will be disruptive to the community.

Discussion on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report Press Release

Cynthia spoke of the relation between the Environmental Commission and BCOS in regards to the GGE Report and she recommends that BCOS gear their quote in the release to social equity and the economy instead of the environmental impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Paul Schneller spoke of his concern that the press release does not address the issue of coal as a main component of energy production in Indiana and the nation. Matt Laherty followed-up with points of how climate change and coal consumption are related and that generally he has similar feelings as Paul in this regard.

Discussion ensued regarding carbon caps, coal burning, and the proposed legislation at the federal level in this regard. Paul suggested that the City and, or the Commission prepare statements against the continued use of coal as a main source of energy. Dave announced that the City

Council has sent a letter to Congressman Baron Hill urging his support in being stringent in regards to the proposed legislation.

Paul asked what the Commission felt as to how to proceed around this issue. Paul would like this issue to be at the forefront of the City Administrations efforts and that he would like to see action in this area. He wonders whether or not we can get our principal decision-makers to begin making this a priority and making changes on a daily basis even on an individual level.

It was suggested that the Commission prepare a statement. Cynthia will draft a statement that will allow for a sentence or two to be used in the actual Environmental Commission Press Release on the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report.

Andrew Davis spoke how the Commission needs to be respectful but at the same time be aware of the end of the spectrum that is sustainability.

Discussion on Sustainability Coordinator DRAFT Job Description

Cynthia began the conversation on how in her conversations with Mayor Kruzan that he asked for the Commission to review the draft job description and offer feedback directly to Danise Alano, Director of Economic and Sustainable Development.

Cynthia spoke of the feedback from the Environmental Commission in regards to the draft job description which included the following: on how the position will coordinate the efforts of both the Commission on Sustainability and the Environmental Commission; how the position will report to the Director of Economic and Sustainable Development will not allow enough latitude and that the position should report directly to the Mayor.

Dave Rollo suggested that the City aim high in this area by casting a national search. Matt Laherty spoke of how he thought the position should be a higher level position such as a Director. Matt furthered his comments to say that the position could easily pay for itself in direct savings.

Dave continued the conversation to say that he feels the position should not be in the Economic and Sustainable Development Department and Paul continued in saying that the Commission should not be staffed by the ESD Department and that it should be a City wide commission.

Discussion of 2009 Speaker Requests

Cynthia began the conversation that we begin to plan very carefully on how to most efficiently administer the Commission and that we only have speakers that directly relate to the strategic priorities of BCOS.

Cynthia spoke of transportation, water consumption, economic vitality, energy and peak oil and shelter as priority areas for BCOS. Cynthia further stated that she feels the speakers should be subject matter experts in these five areas.

Paul suggested that another way of bringing in information would be to provide a set of questions to individuals from BCOS members and prepare these in advance so that speakers can address these specific concerns. Paul felt that it would be beneficial to have answers to questions be the focal point of the conversation. George went on to say that he agrees with the discussion about the issue and that his concern is the “then what” once we have had a speaker on one of the five focus area topics.

The conversation continued to how the Peak Oil Task Force was a good example of interaction with Department Heads. Paul spoke of how we should be ally's to the staff at the City and George felt strongly that this was important.

Matt asked whether or not focus areas have "vision statements" or goals that can be measured for success. The conversation then turned to how the framework for the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Report is the guiding document of our areas of concentration.

Committee Reports

Cynthia spoke of the progress of the STAR Committee and that we are now seeking an intern to continue the progress of the committee.

Adam then stated that he would send a concise document of committee interests to the Commission so that we can get our committees moving forward.

Paul spoke of how we should try to bring in subject matter experts to our committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25. The next meeting of the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability will take place on June 9 in the McCloskey Room of City Hall at 6:00 p.m.