

Jun 11, 2024 | BCOS Meeting Minutes

## **Meeting Theme**

### **“Sustainability and Urban Beekeeping”**

1. Call to Order
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm
2. Roll Call
  - a. Matt Austin - here, in person
  - b. Kate-Lyn Edwards - here, in person
  - c. David Maenner - here, in person
  - d. Jon Eldon - here, in person
  - e. Jessica Davis - absent
  - f. Dave Rollo - here, virtually
  - g. Hannah Gregory - here, in person
  - h. Justin Vassel - here, in person
  - i. Jami Scholl - here, in person
  - j. Alex Hakes - absent
  - k. Denis Vera - absent
  - l. Andrew Guenther - here, in person
3. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Suggestion to move the elections up to the beginning of the meeting after approval of the minutes
    - i. Approved, no objections
  - b. Suggestion to move Bee presentation to after the elections
    - i. Approved, no objections
  - c. Suggestion to move public comment to after Bee presentation
    - i. Approved, no objections
  - d. Suggestion to move staff report to after public comment
    - i. Approved, no objections
4. Approval of Minutes: May 22, 2024
  - a. Approved, no objections
5. Officer Elections
  - a. Secretary
    - i. No nominations, no election
    - ii. Will revisit next meeting

- b. Treasurer
  - i. Matt Austin nominated himself
  - ii. Kate-Lyn asks what the responsibilities are of the treasurer
    - 1. Prepare budget
    - 2. Identify funding sources to support
  - iii. Move to vote Matt as Treasurer
    - 1. Matt Austin - yes
    - 2. Kate-Lyn Edwards - yes
    - 3. David Maenner - yes
    - 4. Jon Eldon - yes
    - 5. Dave Rollo - yes
    - 6. Hannah Gregory - yes
    - 7. Justin Vassel - yes
    - 8. Jami Scholl - yes
    - 9. Andrew Guenther - yes
  - iv. Unanimous approval, Matt Austin was elected Treasurer
- 6. Beekeeping in Bloomington (Matt Austin)
  - a. Guest Speaker: Jason Winters
    - i. Maintains hives on his property in Bloomington
    - ii. Spoke about the mechanics of honeybees and how keeping them operates and other facts about them and their importance
    - iii. Addressed myths/misunderstandings about honeybees, also best practices when keeping them
    - iv. Interested in increasing public education about bees to encourage others to beekeep / mitigate worry if neighbors are keeping bees
      - 1. Installing a fly barrier
      - 2. Kids with bee allergies? How are real concerns like this addressed
      - 3. There is a law in Indiana that prevents bans on home beekeepers, regulations/restrictions up to individual municipalities
        - a. "The bill's current language would not allow an HOA to prohibit Hoosiers from beekeeping on their property so long as the hives are actively maintained to produce honey and comply with existing state law."
        - b. Bloomington currently does not have any restrictions
      - 4. Question about if an increase in honeybee population will displace native bees
        - a. Consensus is yes
  - b. Guest Speaker: Jennifer Bland (Bee Town Beekeeping Club)
    - i. Bee keeper for 11 years, taught about it at Ivy Tech
    - ii. Her opinion is that beekeepers are often a big threat to honeybees

1. Mostly due to lack of knowledge/resources, people should be thoroughly educated before beekeeping
    - iii. Jennifer says that it is very rare to have an allergy to a honeybee sting, different type of venom than wasps/other bees
    - iv. Biggest threat to honeybees is varroa mites
      1. Bigger population of honeybees means an increase in varroa mites
    - v. Swarm management is crucial in urban beekeeping
      1. Honeybees also gravitate towards salt/chlorine pools, could present issues
    - vi. Solutions for urban beekeeping
      1. Registering hives instead of licensing
      2. 20 ft from the road, sidewalk, property line
        - a. Rooftop beekeeping
      3. Public education
  - c. Questions & Discussion
7. Public Comment
- a. George Hangerman - local beekeeper, has kept bees across many different org's properties in town
    - i. Added additional context to urban beekeeping in Bloomington
    - ii. Says there are regulations from other towns that we can reference
8. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)
- a. Did a walkthrough of the Climate Action Dashboard, asked for commissioners to share with their network
  - b. Beat the Heat
    - i. Launching a free swim day for public pools, reduced WonderLab prices during heat watch days
    - ii. NOAA HeatWatch, so far have 28 volunteers but trying to recruit more
  - c. Urban Gardening Implementation Team starting, had first meeting
  - d. Project 46 update, selected 6 proposals submitted with \$38M
  - e. City Hall LED project, approved for a \$141k grant to update lighting
  - f. Working with Donovan Energy to make sustainable updates to the Buskirk Chumley Theatre, will be a community facing project
9. Reports from Commissioners
- a. Chair (Justin Vasel)
    - i. Suggests figuring out a way to get more done within the Commission – additional meetings? More working group meetings? Etc.
      1. Need a way to address items outside of the meeting
  - b. Just Transition Working Group (KateLyn Edwards)
    - i. Wants to absolve this working group and propose new working group to continue social equity work

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- c. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)
  - i. First compost captain
- d. Working group grant proposal (Jon Eldon)
- e. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)

Ran out of time for the remaining agenda items.

Next Meeting: July 9, 2024 at 6 pm