



Minutes

Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. Call to Order: **Justin Vasel calls the meeting to order at 6:02**
2. Roll Call: **Members present: Justin Vasel, Matt Austin, Zero Rose, Tara Dunderdale, John Eldon, Dave Rollo, Jami Scholl, Evan Nix, David Maener, Hunter Hawley. City Staff Present are Shawn Miya, Jane Kupersmith, and Larry Allen.**
3. Approval of Agenda: Agenda was unanimously approved.
4. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2024
Justin Vasel notes that some items at the end of minutes were placeholders from the agenda and need to be removed. Motion to approve the minutes with recommended change by Matt Austin. Second by Dave Rollo. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. Public Comment: No public comment.
6. Reports from Commissioners
 - a. Chair Justin Vasel welcomes new commissioners and invites them to introduce themselves and describe what interests them about the commission. Zero Rose, Hunter Hawley, Tara Dunderdale all describe their backgrounds and interests. Dave Rollo describes the context when introducing the original legislation to establish BCOS. Extant members share their backgrounds.
 - b. Justin Vasel shares BCOS 101 slides that give an overview of powers and duties of the commission including org chart and the mission of BCOS, "to promote sustainable, socio-environmental-economic well-being of Bloomington and all its inhabitants."
 - c. Justin Vasel Shares items on BCOS radar including:
 - i. Strategic Goal Setting
 - ii. Urban Beekeeping
 - iii. Chicken Ordinance
 - iv. Bylaws Refresh
 - v. BCOS Onboarding Materials
 - vi. Social Media & Online Presence
 - vii. Sustainability Assessment Report
 - viii. IU Sustainability Interns
 - ix. Grants

- x. Urban Ag and Food Safety
- xi. Social Equity Projects from Just Transition Working Group
- xii. Sustainability / CAP tracking
- xiii. Summit District Tracking
- xiv. Collaboration with Other Groups
- d. Justin Vasel introduces the idea of work sessions as a way to execute more efficiently on BCOS projects. Suggests that the Commission could have an additional meeting each month to allow them to get in the weeds on a subject during regularly scheduled monthly meetings. No final decisions or votes, but quorum and advance notice would be required.
- e. The group discusses the difference between working groups and work sessions. Larry Allen notes that if working groups are gathering and 2 or more members are present, notice would be required. He notes that working groups are not required to meet in City Hall, but the location must be accessible by the public.
- f. Justin Vasel introduces the issue of file storage ownership, which has surfaced as recently in violation of the City's IT policy. Staff determined that folder and document ownership must be by City staff, but that sharing documents with commissioners itself is not a problem. The group cites the need to access and manage their own files to advance projects and discusses ways in which this may be accomplished. City Attorney Larry Allen notes that all output is subject to public information requests and document retention policies. Justin Vasel notes that the executive committee will meet with staff in order to discuss ways forward.
- g. Just Transition Working Group (KateLyn Edwards): No update
- h. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)
 - i. GardenQuest is going to be offering training on the Bokashi method for composting. Using bokashi, within a week of fermenting, the remaining matter becomes a liquid fertilizer.
 - ii. Matt Austin offers an update on the sustainable neighborhoods grant that GardenQuest received for TerraCycle: They have filled multiple containers. 10 neighbors have been trained. Waste Reduction District of Monroe County (WRDMC) has 2 terracycle containers at their facility. GardenQuest reached out to the HT to publicize TerraCycle and neighborhood grants through BCOS.
 - iii. Justin Vasel adds that BCOS has access to Sustainable Neighborhood Grants and Working group grants through ESD's annual budget
- i. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)
 - i. Dave Rollo states there is not much to report as we just returned from recess. It's a good opportunity to learn about what the City does. The City will be considering the issue of whether to proceed with Annexation and whether to expand the boundaries of the City. County

is opposed. Rollo believes the council will be making a declaration about it and the administration will proceed with more litigation.

- ii. Consideration for the commission: when thinking about sustainability in 03-04 when the commission was originally established, it became apparent that climate change was already problematic. Might consider what is at the heart of sustainability. This goes to first principle considerations. Previously—that common diagram that we know: environment – economy – equity. To optimize them, they must function with equal consideration. Rollo believes this model is no longer sufficient, because it doesn't place limits on the entirety of the activity of human processes. So we could have a discussion that it's not about lowering impacts, but rethinking the ways in which humans process economics (defined as throughput of energy and materials). Rather recommends a nested model—where the environment is the outside—limits. Then social, and then economy. Rollo would be willing to continue discussing if this is of interest to the commission.

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

- a. Urban Agriculture and Food Security (Jami Scholl). Jami Scholl describes a project she is working on an urban agriculture amendment to the UDO. She has learned that some HOAs don't allow certain types of food growing. There is an overall question about how many people can actually grow their own food and grow it to sell (economic incentive). Seemed like it would be a big win but perhaps the outcome is dwindling

Spreadsheet examines how many HOAs support local food sovereignty / sustainability. An intern is needed to fill out the spreadsheet.

Steps recommended: 1. Update city code to integrate sustainability priorities and 2. Make standard covenants, conditions and restrictions (CCRs) for developers to use if they opt to create an HOA, make public the way in which an existing neighborhood can update their CCR, create an updated NOV for HAND to include more specific information that will be supportive of Climate Action Plan., add an urban farm to RCA park. Update the UDO to include sustainability goals

NOVs should be updated. Notes that permaculture and edibles were cited as violations by HAND.

JS noted the need to include diagrams—better visual communication would help. Doesn't know if compliance officers understand what plants are what. Offer more specific date and time for a revisit and information about communications to set up a new inspection.

JS believes that plant lists and other guiding documents could be shared with HOAs and compliance officers.

- b. Neighborhood Grant Collaboration Opportunities with Waste Reduction District of Monroe County (guest: Tom McGlasson) Push to next meeting. Tom McGlasson
- c. BCOS Social Media (Zero Roze)
Zero notes that there was no commission account. There was an Instagram but nothing being posted. Years ago—did video PSAs for CATS channel 7 (nonprofit). Doesn't want this to be a specialized community. Jami follows NextDoor. Only for the neighborhood.

Tara asked for data on social media impact

Staff suggests and Justin Vasel agrees that staff will provide info on relevant policies to help drive a solution for social media that meets the needs of BCOS while meeting the requirements of City best practices and policies.

~~8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion~~

~~9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion~~

- 10. Report from Staff Liaison:** Shawn Miya shares that the Urban Heat Island Mapping campaign was completed. She shares a video piece from WTHR in Indianapolis. Provided information about Mother Hubbard's Cupboard's Garden Gala

11. Member Announcements

- a. John Eldon notes that there is no progress on issuing grants from the BCOS Working Group Grant program. He notes that we are already in August and should get a plan to disburse this funding by year end.

12. New Business

a. Officer Elections

- i. Matt Austin moved to extend the meeting 5 minutes. Jami Scholl seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.
- ii. Zero Roze was nominated as secretary by Matt Austin. Jami Scholl Seconds. The motion was approved unanimously through a roll call vote.

- 13. Adjournment:** Justin Vasel moves to adjourn without objection at 7:34 pm