



**BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
MINUTES — REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, September 10th, 2024

McCloskey Conference Room and via Zoom

BCOS Members Attending: Justin Vasel, Matt Austin, Jon Eldon, Dave Rollo, Jami Scholl, Secretary-Zero Rose (Zoom), David Maenner, Andrew Guenther, Jami Scholl, Tara Dunderdale, Evan Nix (Zoom), Hunter Hawley

BCOS Members Absent: Quentin Gilley

Staff Attending: Shawn Miya (Liaison) and Jane Kupersmith (Director of Economic and Sustainable Development/ESD)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Justin Vasel at 6:03pm.

Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation: A quorum is present.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Matt Austin to approve Agenda. SECONDED by Hunter Hawley.

APPROVED by general consent.

Approval of Minutes for the meeting on August 13th, 2024: APPROVED by general consent.

Public Comment: None

Report from the Chair (Justin Vasel)

Officer Elections coming up in March 2025 and will hold sessions in December or January relating to Election of BCOS Officers.

New Commissioner; Quentin Gilley not present, but welcomed aboard as the IU Office

of Sustainability Commissioner. Two vacant positions on the Commission are Mayoral Appointments.

Work session on Sept 3, 2024: Informal format at Public Library was attended by 8 Commissioners. Discussed Waste Management WG, the WG grants process, the mandate of BCOS in municipal code to seek outside funding, and alternative ways of defining and pursuing sustainability. Tara Dunderdale to spearhead Sustainability Assessment in relation to the UN's 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).

Establishment of a new Google Drive for BCOS as a document repository and providing the City with read access so they can take periodic screenshots to archive for APRA compliance and document retention. (Jane Kupersmith responded to a question of whether ESD could pay for the digital service by suggesting that they could "get to a Yes" on funding that function).

Social Media Procedures: Brainstorming needed to create quality control guidelines for topics and types of online posts, scheduling for handing off to Liaison to post to networking platforms.

Engagement and Outreach with other local bodies; Justin attended CHLA (Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs) and will interface with a member on sustainability initiatives they have going on.

City 2025 Budget: Process is underway; Commissioners should be aware.

Working Group Grants: Three potential proposals are being drafted. We're hoping to do what we can with the remaining time that we have this year. Simple projects will stand the greatest chance of working through the approval process.

Report from Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)

Council/ESD rewording BCOS Mission as Purpose and other changes to foundational statute to present to BCOS to consider. The 2025 budget process includes ongoing negotiations, mainly toward cost of living adjustments, raises for City employees. (Jane Kupersmith responded to a question to Dave about BCOS Working Groups grants

funding; they are funded by a line item in the Mayor's budget from the general fund to ESD under Sustainability Grants and are slated to continue next year).

Report from Commissioners

Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)

Bokashi Composting pilot project - inception from an expressed community need brought to municipal entities and University programs (Lotus Fest, Purdue Extension, Waste Reduction District) taken on by Garden Quest. Compost Captains program as a template to train volunteers in the process of collecting, steeping, draining Bokashi buckets using inoculated wheat bran to pickle all manner of food waste, to ultimately enrich soil at the Community Orchard and Community Gardens. Asking \$5,000 from the BCOS WG Grant Pool, matched by \$5,000 from the Waste Reduction District (approved at their Executive Committee Meeting and to be presented to the Board of Directors in October). An educational component to introduce the methods to the community, reduction of landfill/emissions and ultimately building nutrient rich soil for local food production.

Shawn Miya asked about the community benefit of Bokashi composting pilot given its potential value as a sellable product, and whether IDEM restricts the practice and whether a Waste Hauling permit would be required for an ongoing program. She requested adding letters of commitment from MCWRD or other partners to WG grant application

Discussions Not Resolutions

Role of Treasurer and commercial fundraising for Working Group projects, educational community initiatives; Could BCOS sell things like compost or lemonade? And how would donations or funds raised independently of ESD be administered? There were conflicting opinions by commissioners on this.

Working Group Grant Proposals

Canopy Bloomington (Andrew Guenther) - planting and maintaining trees for private property, businesses or nonprofits (not City property); \$2500+ grant request. Shawn Miya Mentioned she had a similar tree planting project going and expressed her enthusiasm. Dave Rollo mentioned that Canopy Bloomington had some "heavy

hitters" among their affiliated supporters and questioned whether other sources of funding could be sought and emphasized that the small amount of funds that BCOS has on hand should be applied to things that aren't being done or aren't yet funded.

Earthen Bench Garten Array (Evan Nix and Zero Rose) - Creative Placemaking Microcosm of Green Building Techniques, Urban Ag and Biospheric Community Node; \$1,000.94 grant request. No time given for discussion.

Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)

Introduced ESD's new Sustainable Development Coordinator, Jolie Perry.

Did not have time for a report due to the 90-minute meeting timeframe. Below are Shawn's sentiments during Waste Management Working Group proposal:

MOTION to extend meeting five minutes (Matt Austin)

SECONDED (Jon Eldon)

2024 Sustainability Assessment Report (Tara Dunderdale)

Proposal to form an Ad Hoc Committee focused on a few categories to prepare a Policy and Budget Assessment by year's end to determine progress made and areas for improvement.

MOTION to form Sustainability Assessment Report Ad Hoc Committee (Justin Vasel)

SECONDED (Andrew Guenther)

Commissioners who volunteered for the Ad Hoc Committee: Andrew Guenther, Evan Nix, Justin Vasel and Tara Dunderdale.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at 6pm