

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

MEETING PACKET

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Or virtually at:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=naI8LVmKZSoInPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962

Passcode: 034238

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- 1. Agenda**
- 2. Minutes for Approval: March 11, 2025**
- 3. Chair Report**
- 4. Working Group Grant Idea: Downtown Garden Installation**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

NOTICE AND AGENDA

Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Conference Room – City Hall

or virtually at

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/84327085962?pwd=na18LVmKZSoiPUHbXuw3h7oqMyi5g.1>

Meeting ID: 843 2708 5962 | Passcode: 034238

Note: Agenda item times are approximate and subject to change

- 1. Call to Order** **6:00 pm**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
- 4. Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2025**
Approval of Minutes: April 8, 2025
Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2025
- 5. Public Comment** **6:05 pm (10m)**
up to 3 minutes per person
- 6. Reports from Commissioners** **6:15 pm (25m)**
 - A. Chair (Justin Vasel) 6:15 pm (10m)
 - B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) 6:25 pm (5m)
 - C. Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report (Tara Dunderdale) 6:30 pm (5m)
 - D. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) 6:35 pm (5m)
- 7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions** **6:40 pm (20m)**
 - A. Working Group Grant Idea: Downtown Garden Installation (Dave Huber) 6:40 pm (20m)
- 8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion** **N/A**
- 9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion** **7:00 pm (0m)**
- 10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)** **7:00 pm (10m)**
- 11. Member Announcements** **7:10 pm (5m)**
- 12. New Business** **7:15 pm (5m)**
- 13. Adjournment** **by 7:30 pm**

Next Regular Meeting: July 8, 2025 at 6 pm

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Minutes

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Justin Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM.
2. **Roll Call**

Members present: Justin Vasel, Zero Rose, Tara Dunderdale, Dave Rollo, Jami Scholl, Matt Austin, Chenghuai Xu

Members absent: Hunter Hawley, Evan Nix, Quentin Gilly, Jon Eldon

City staff present: Shawn Miya, Jolie Perry
3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: Matt Austin moved, and Tara Dunderdale seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by voice vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes:**

December 10, 2024: **ACTION:** Zero Rose moved, and Dave Rollo seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

February 11, 2025: **ACTION:** Dave Rollo moved, and Matt Austin seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by voice vote.
5. **Public Comment**

None.
6. **Report from Commissioners**
 - a. **Chair Report** (Justin Vasel)

Upcoming Calendar: Justin reviewed the tentative calendar showing regular meetings and work sessions through October 2025, noting today's officer elections.

Organization Chart: Updated chart shows Tara Dunderdale and Justin Vasel were reappointed as commissioners. Three vacancies remain: two mayoral appointments and one Monroe County ex-officio position.

Chair Priorities Update: Justin presented progress on 2024-2025 priorities across three categories: People (commissioner recruitment/engagement), Outcomes (goals, initiatives, reports), and Governance (bylaws, working groups). Most items have progressed or been started.

Upcoming Events:
March 12 City Council meeting: Greenhouse gas report presentation; second readings of Resolutions 2025-05 and 2025-06 for UDO amendment process
April 3 State of the City Address at Waldron Arts Center
April 19 (corrected from April 22) Earth Day event at Switchyard Park

General Updates:

Two commissioner reappointments completed

Recent City Council interactions: Justin provided public comment supporting BMC 2.12.100 code changes and emphasized importance of council oversight on climate resilience issues during Climate Resilience Committee dissolution discussion

2024 Annual Report drafting mostly complete, awaiting finalization of 2025 priorities

Bylaw reform process outlined: Justin will identify needed changes, bring to commission for discussion, draft new language, and bring final version for vote

February 25 work session was productive brainstorming session for 2025 commission work

b. **Waste Management Working Group** (Matt Austin)

Caldwells Inc. Tour: Tomorrow morning tour of Caldwells facilities in Shelbyville, meeting at Waste Reduction District at 7:15 a.m. Caldwells has pilot program accepting five-gallon buckets of food waste from Shelby County residents. Matt plans to pitch Bokashi composting to help them produce fertilizer.

Community Partnerships: Met with Josh (one-eyed farmer) and Gavin Everett of Community Culture Inc., a nonprofit that uses donated garden space from property owners no longer gardening. Volunteers work the spaces with small percentage going to property owners, some to volunteers, and majority to food banks and nonprofits. Currently has 7,500 square feet of available space with 1,400 square foot plots.

Faith Community Outreach: Contacted EarthCare, representing seven faith communities focused on environmental action. Planning to present Bokashi introduction at their March 24 Zoom meeting and connect them with Community Culture Inc. and Back to Earth program (Joseph Winnieff's composting systems at apartment complexes).

Stakeholder Development: Continued efforts to connect various food waste and urban agriculture initiatives to build momentum. Tour participants include Waste Reduction District staff, Environmental Commission member, CAC member, totaling about seven people.

c. **Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report** (Tara Dunderdale)

Process Update: Due to Open Door Law constraints on collaborative document work, Tara and Evan Nix split the report in half, working independently on separate sections that will be combined for final draft.

Budget Analysis Section: Tara's section includes budget analysis using open finance data, inflation-adjusted to show real investment trends. Analyzed Parks and Recreation, Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD), and planning to include Housing budgets. Used approved budget figures rather than actual spending to highlight city priorities.

Key Findings:

- (1) Parks and Recreation shows sustained investment with notable increases
- (2) Urban Green Spaces budget tripled from 2018-2024 (inflation-adjusted)

(3) ESD department shows significant budget increases reflecting city commitment to sustainability

Additional Sections: Working on "Other City Actions" section, planning to coordinate with Shawn and Jolie on programs and projects not fully captured on website.

Commission Input Requested: Feedback on additional budget line items to analyze and other areas of interest. Discussion included adding 2025 budget data and breaking down ESD budget to separate sustainability-specific items.

d. **Council Ex-Officio** (Dave Rollo)

Climate Action Resilience Committee Dissolution: Committee established around 2019 was dissolved after completing its main charges: supporting Climate Action Plan development (completed 2021) and establishing tracking mechanisms (Climate Action Dashboard now operational). Decision reflects availability of other mechanisms including city climate action team, Project 46 regional alliance, Transportation Commission, new fiscal committee, and this commission.

UDO Amendment Resolutions: Two resolutions (2025-05 and 2025-06) scheduled for tomorrow's council meeting would direct Planning Commission to prepare amendments allowing duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes citywide while removing design standards. Dave expressed concern about blanket citywide approach potentially incentivizing conversion of owner-occupied homes to rentals, preferring directed densification. Process would take months with Planning Commission development and 90-day council review period.

Public Input Process: CM Rollo advocated for deliberative sessions to gather community input on UDO amendments, citing controversial nature and need for broader discussion beyond standard Planning Commission hearings.

7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions

a. **Commission Priorities for 2025**

Jami Scholl requested to present information relevant to priorities discussion.

ACTION: Matt Austin moved to amend agenda to include Jami's item. Zero Rose seconded. Motion approved by voice vote.

Urban Agriculture Discussion (Jami Scholl): Proposed creating urban agriculture zones, supporting tax incentives for vacant lot conversion to urban farms, and implementing policies integrating agriculture into developments. Emphasized food sovereignty needs given potential food system disruptions, noting Bloomington needs approximately 40 acres in production for 120,000 population. Expressed concern that blanket density zoning could eliminate potential agricultural land.

Zero Rose suggested a new working group focused on resilience beyond sustainability, addressing supply chain disruptions and climate change effects. Emphasized need for front-end policy allowing urban agriculture rather than after-the-fact approaches.

Tara Dunderdale supported the education and outreach priority with emphasis on coalition building and collaboration with existing organizations doing sustainability work. Noted commission limitations due to meeting constraints and positioned commission to provide funding, resources, and access to community groups already active in this work.

Earth Day Participation: Commission signed up for Earth Day table. Discussion of materials needed, possible Bokashi demonstrations, invasive plant identification activities for children, and potential farmer's market presence.

Final Priorities Adopted: Commission reached consensus on two priority areas:
(1) Housing & Zoning Policy: Including UDO and PUD developments, native planting, and garden/food production space
(2) Education & Outreach: Including Bokashi tutorials, workshops and events, social media presence, and coalition building.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion: None

9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion: None

10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)

Current Projects:

- a. Signed contract received from Indiana Office of Energy Development for Buskirk Chumley Theater project (\$500,000 grant with 20% match for solar, battery storage, and HVAC upgrades)
- b. City Hall LED lighting project started, saving 67% on lighting costs
- c. Strong momentum building for Project 46 regional climate alliance

Grant Programs (Jolie Perry):

- d. SEAL Program: Solar Energy Efficiency and Lighting Program for nonprofits and small businesses reopened, adding battery energy storage systems for nonprofits to maintain essential services during outages
- e. Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program (BGHIP): Revamped with increased rebates, seeing strong early applications. Includes higher rebates for low-income homeowners and coordination with federal Homes in Here program offering up to 100% cost coverage for low-income residents
- f. Outreach Needs: Seeking collaboration opportunities for low-income outreach and promotional materials

Earth Day Event: Large event planned with capacity vendor participation, IU and high school students in recycled material costumes representing energy systems and "chasing away" greenhouse gas character.

11. Member Announcements

- a. **Jami Scholl:** No additional announcements beyond priority discussion.

12. New Business

a. **Officer Elections**

Elections conducted for four positions with nominations from the floor:

Chairperson: Justin Vasel nominated and accepted. Roll call vote 7-0-0.

Vice Chairperson: Tara Dunderdale nominated and accepted. Roll call vote 7-0-0.

Secretary: Zero Rose nominated and accepted. Roll call vote 7-0-0.

Treasurer: Matt Austin nominated and accepted. Roll call vote 7-0-0.

13. Adjournment:

ACTION: Dave Rollo moved, and Matt Austin seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

NEXT MEETING:
APRIL 8, 2025 6PM

FOR APPROVAL



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Chair Report

June 10, 2025

Justin Vasel

BCOS Organization Chart

As of June 10, 2025

Current State

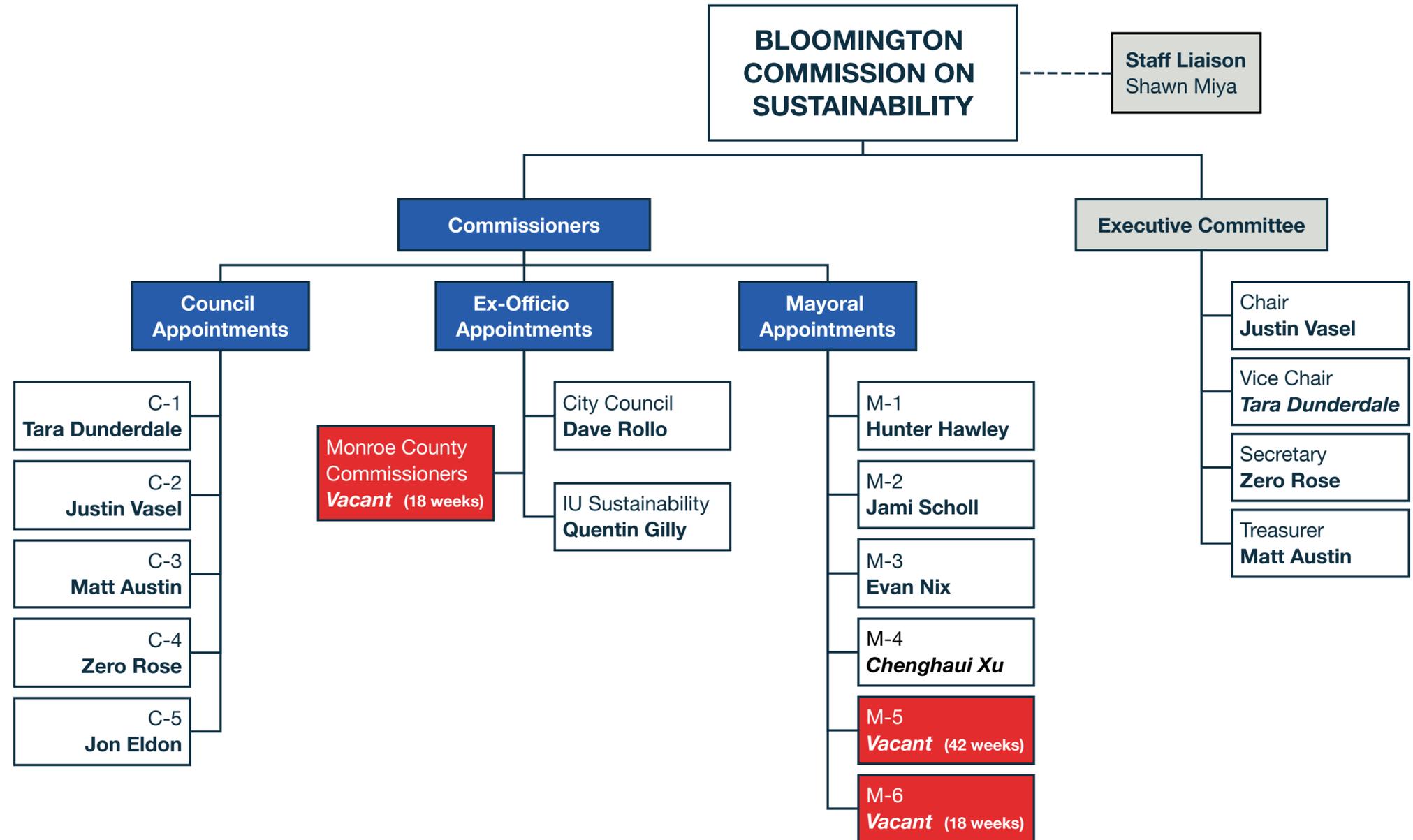
- Three vacancies
- Current quorum threshold: 6 / 11

What Has Changed

- N/A

Upcoming Farewells

- Hunter Hawley, effective July 1, 2025



Funding & Awards

2025 Working Group Grant Awards

Project	Award	Sponsor
AWARDED		
N/A		
PROPOSED*		
N/A		
IDEA†	\$ 8,500.00	
Community & Festival Food Waste Pilot Project (Bokashi)	\$ 5,000.00	M. Austin
Sustainability Interview Series	\$ 1,000.00	C. Xu
Downtown Garden Installation	\$ 2,500.00	J. Vasel

* Proposed award amounts are as requested and are not final.

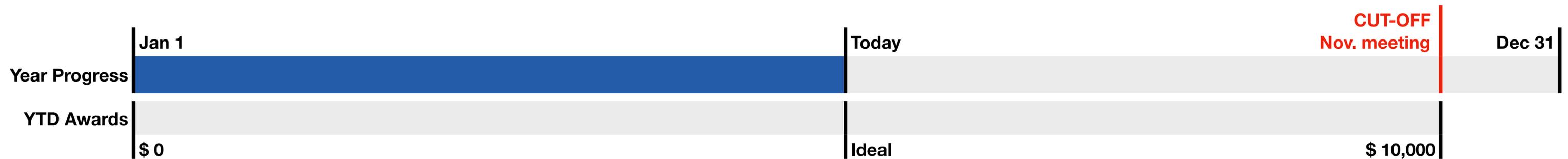
† Idea award amounts are suggestions; proposed amounts may differ significantly.

Current State

- Available: \$10,000
- Spent: \$0
- Remaining: \$10,000

What Has Changed

- N/A



News & Updates

Internal Commission Updates

Blue items are new/updated

Area	Status
Bylaws Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identified outdated/confusing aspects of current language and any gaps; discussed with CommissionCurrently drafting new language; will bring to Commission when ready for discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none">Targeting July meeting
2025 Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BCOS approved report May 2025Drafting slides for presentation to Council after their recess.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Will ask BCOS to approve at July meeting
BCOS Commissioner Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Begun drafting a handbook for BCOS members to help retain institutional memory and improve onboardingCity may be developing a similar product for all commissions; in that case, ours would only include BCOS-specific info
Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beginning to develop a set of short documents which prescribe recommended procedures for common tasks (e.g., submitting agenda items, drafting resolutions, common officer duties, etc.)Goals: (1) Increase efficiency by taking the guess work out of processes, (2) improve Commissioners' understanding about how BCOS gets work done, (3) facilitate knowledge transfer to future members.

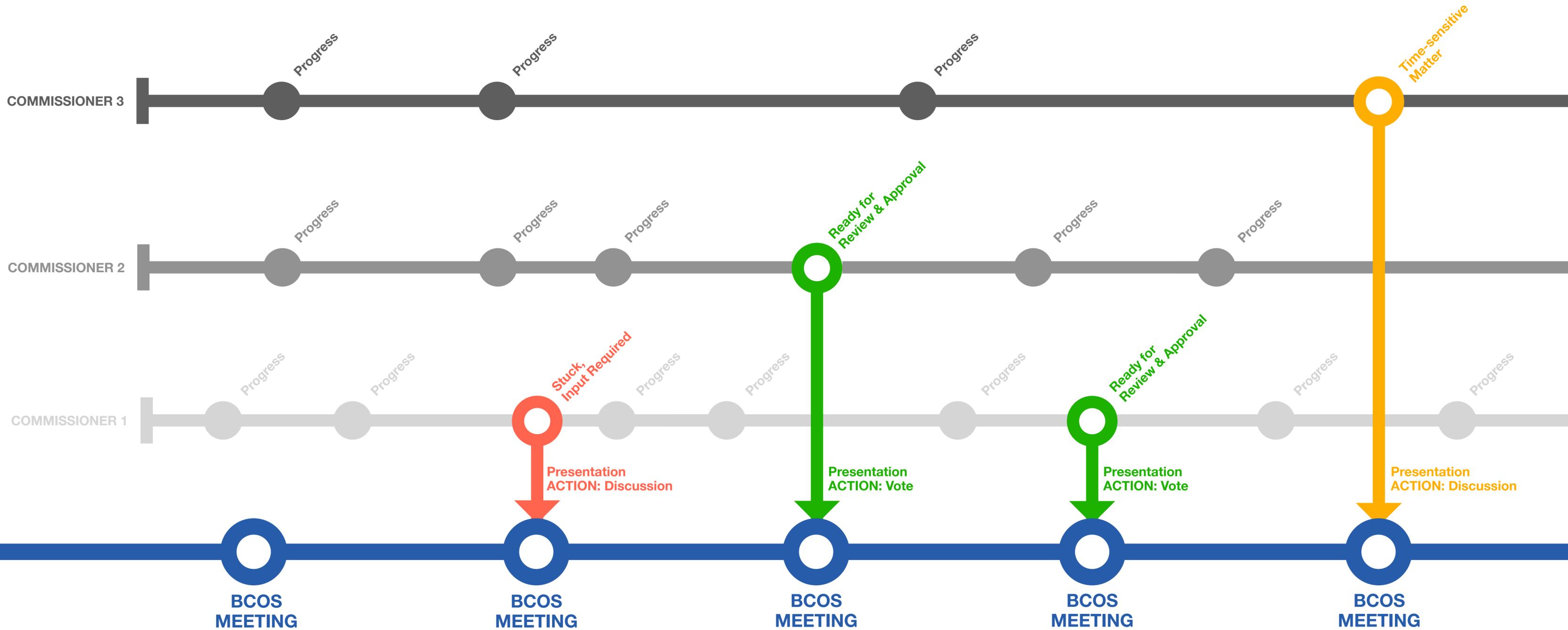
Commissioner Focus Areas

Homework: pick a topic/issue important to you for this list

Commissioner	Focus Area
Tara Dunderdale	
Justin Vasel	Artificial Intelligence and Data Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding environmental/economic impact of common AI tools. • Policy recommendations for city AI use, prospective data center projects, etc. • Outputs include resolutions, reports, educational materials
Matt Austin	Waste Reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public education on waste reduction techniques, such as bokashi • Policy recommendations regarding city waste management
Zero Rose	
Jon Eldon	
Dave Rollo	
Quentin Gilly	
Hunter Hawley	
Jami Scholl	Food Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCOS Food Resilience Working Group • Coordinate community partnerships and public education campaigns • Pursue amendments to UDO and Comprehensive Plan; encourage city-county partnerships
Evan Nix	
Chenghuai Xu	Sustainability Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public guest lecture series

Meeting Planning

Optimized for Many Commissioners Working in Parallel



Upcoming Meetings

Tentative Agendas

Business Meetings

Date	Sponsor	Action	Status	Agenda Item
8 July 2025	Matt Austin	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Working Group Grant Proposal: Bokashi
	Justin Vasel	VOTE	TENTATIVE	Working Group Grant Proposal: Downtown Garden Installation
	Justin Vasel	FIRST READING	CONFIRMED	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
	Justin Vasel	VOTE	CONFIRMED	2024 Annual Report slides to be presented to Council
12 Aug 2025	Justin Vasel	SECOND READING	TENTATIVE	Amendments to BCOS Bylaws
9 Sept 2025				

Work Sessions

Date	Topic(s)
24 Jun 2025	Sustainability Assessment Report
22 July 2025	
26 Aug 2025	

Pending Minutes Approvals

Meeting Date	Scheduled Approval
11 Mar 2025	10 Jun 2025
8 April 2025	8 Jul 2025
13 May 2025	

Upcoming Events

Of Potential Interest to Commissioners

Date/Time	Location	Event
18 June 6:00 PM	Upland Brewing Wood Shop 350 W 11th St	Green Drinks – <i>Earth’s Vital Signals: An Up-to-the-Minute Look at Key Global Climate Metrics</i> Dr. Jeff White, Professor Emeritus of Environmental and Earth Sciences, IU
12 Aug	University Tower Ballroom IU Indianapolis	IU Economic Development Summit Theme: “ <i>The Impact of Indiana’s Flagship</i> ” https://engagement.iu.edu/summit/index.html

Resources

For Commissioners

- **Websites**

- [BCOS Homepage](#)
- [BCOS OnBoard page](#)

- **Commission Documents**

- [BCOS 2024 Annual Report](#)
- [BCOS Bylaws](#)

- **Working Group Grants**

- [Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#)
- [Application Template](#)

- **Templates**

- [BCOS Resolution Template](#)

- **Bloomington Policy Documents**

- [Municipal Code \(BMC\)](#)
- [Climate Action Plan \(CAP\)](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Unified Developer Ordinance \(UDO\)](#)

Enriching Public Spaces

Urban Meadows





Let's emphasize the
BLOOM in Bloomington



What if we made downtown
Bloomington even more green?

Ever notice this parking lot?

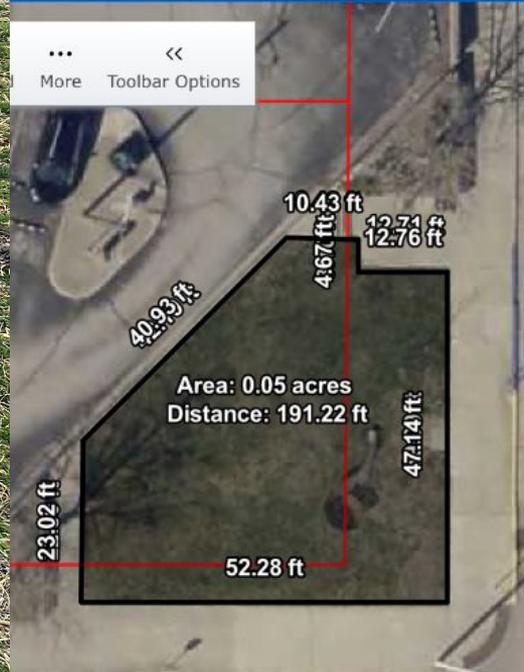
The City owns it



It has this sweet green space



The corner of 4th & Washington



Do you know the local garden designer who won an international award?



Perennial
Plant
ASSOCIATION

Landscape Design
Award Recipient

Andrew Marrs Garden Design
Bloomington IN





What if he planted a native pollinator garden here?

4th & Washington



Cost

1,700 sqft lot

\$12/sqft (includes design and install)

\$20,400 total cost

*Price does not include required annual maintenance

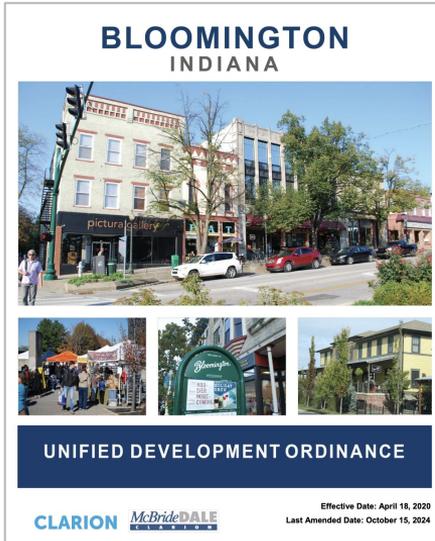
\$15k - \$18k ARPA funds

\$5,400 - \$2,400 remaining needed



Our UDO encourages this

(7) Preserve and enhance the scenic beauty, aesthetics, and environmental integrity of the City



Purpose

This UDO is adopted to:

- (1) Promote the orderly, responsible, and sustainable development and redevelopment of the areas within the City in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan and its components, including but not limited to the Transportation Plan, and subarea plans, which include among others the downtown vision and infill strategy plan, along with such additions and revisions as may be made to such plans after the effective date, and with all other city land use policy;
- (2) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change on our community;
- (3) Promote the public health, safety, morals, ecosystem services, comfort, convenience, and general welfare;
- (4) Protect the character and stability of residential, institutional, business, employment, and natural areas;
- (5) Provide a safe, efficient, accessible, and connected system of transportation that emphasizes public transit, walking, and biking to enhance options to reduce overall dependence on the automobile;
- (6) Secure adequate light, air, convenience of access, and safety from fire, natural disasters, and other danger, which may include providing adequate open spaces for light, air, and outdoor uses;
- (7) Preserve and enhance the scenic beauty, aesthetics, and environmental integrity of the City;
- (8) Encourage compatibility between different land uses and to protect the scale and character of existing development from the encroachment of incompatible uses;
- (9) Regulate and restrict the location and intensity of use of buildings, structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, and other uses;
- (10) Define the powers and duties of administrative officers and bodies as provided herein, and to establish procedures for the implementation and enforcement of this UDO;
- (11) Establish corrective and punitive recourse for violations or noncompliance regarding the provisions of this UDO;
- (12) Ensure ongoing compliance with the provisions of this UDO by requiring regular maintenance and replacement, as needed, of required improvements, including but not limited to landscaping;
- (13) Establish reasonable standards and procedures for subdivisions, in order to further the orderly layout and use of land;
- (14) Avoid scattered, illogical, and uncontrolled subdivisions of land that would result in the imposition of an excessive expenditure of public funds for the distribution or supply of infrastructure and/or services;