

6/10/25 BCOS MEETING

Convened 6pm

Present:

Tara Dunderdale

Jami Scholl

Zero Roze

Evan Nix

(Virtual/Zoom)

Justin Vassel

Jon Eldon

Hunter Hawley

Matt Austen

Xianghai Shu?

(City Hall)

Jolie Perry (ESD)

Approval of Agenda:

motioned, seconded, unanimous

Approval of Minutes: for March 11 2025

motioned, seconded, unanimous

Public Comment: (none)

Reports from Commissioners:

no changes in appointments,

but Hunter Hawley will be departing the Commission as of July 1st, 2025

Internal Commission Updates:

-Grant appl.s needed by November '25

-Bylaws, revamping

-2024 Annual Report

-BCOS Commission Handbook

-SOP Standard Operating Procedures

-Commissioner Focus Areas~

Green Bldg Working Group - ZR, EN

-Food Resilience Working Group - JS, ZR

-Public Education/Outreach - TD

-AI Data Centers - TD

-Submitting Agenda Items/Procedure

-Ad Hoc Committee/Sustainability Assessment Report - TD, EN

-Energy Use Stats Query

-Work Session on June 24th, exploring alternative accessible locations

Waste Management Working Group - Matt Austen  
Taste of Bloomington  
Strawberry Shortcake Festival  
Lotus  
\$500 WG grant request  
Community Orchard Bokashi Training  
Faith Communities  
Waste Reduction District  
Farmers Market  
Info Sessions

Sustainability Assessment Report - Tracking down Energy Use Stats; Jolie Perry responded to Tara and Evan seeking clarity and complete numbers on funding totals and megawatt hours involved in City operations.

Ex Officio Council Report:  
Dave Rollo not present

Guest Speaker:  
Dave Huber (of Garden Tower Project)  
- Urban Meadows BCOS grant proposal  
Native Pollinator Garden  
>Location -  
Behind Uptown Café  
on corner of 4th & Washington (old site of Bloomington Transit bus station, owned by the City)  
2200 sq ft,  
>Designed by -  
Andrew Marrs,  
award winning landscape designer  
ARPA - \$15K to 18K, \$20,000 total cost  
>Asking \$5400 to \$2400 from BCOS  
>Questions JE, JS, HH, TD, MA  
- maintenance by Parks & Rec?  
Master Gardeners involved, hyper dense, self sustaining, minimal weeding, sculpture by local professor.  
Engineering says Okay, but specimens need to be on the City's approved plant list  
Long Term Maintenance beyond watering? Seating, Social Engagement?  
Desire Path? ADA compliant? Other Depts need to be involved? Land and Transportation, Engineering and Parks and Rec been consulted (soft yeses).  
Pilot, Seasonal Aesthetic - Fall foliage left until late February. Conditional approval.  
Perennial flowers on UDO maybe a bit too restrictive, should allow regional varieties, hybrids, cultivars. Commission offer resolution to expand plant list parameters. Special approval/variance? Food plants? Climate Change affecting viability, especially going forward. Environmental Commission should be involved. Documenting stages of research, approval.

Zero Roze offers to work with Dave Huber by forming the Urban Wildlife Working Group, including things like bee hotels, establishing it as a Pocket Park under Parks and Rec., and developing a template for a network of sites, a goal of the Green Bldg Working Group Earthen Benchgarten project at Redbud Books on Kirkwood., developing a map to be included in a public education informational space.

Potentially getting the funding from Environmental Commission Working Group grant pool.

Staff Liaison Report:  
ESD - Jolie Perry

Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit - one day conference  
Green Umbrella (the host)

ZERO in Bloomington challenge  
(City online platform)  
in October  
Fall Events  
tentative involvement from:  
Canopy Bloomington  
Community Orchard  
Waste Reduction District  
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard

Sustainable Neighborhoods grant will be online soon

Member Announcements:

Tara Dunderdale - developing  
Girl Scouts Civics Patch for delivering public comment at government meetings

Zero Roze - Blue Bee nonprofit organization is designing and proposing organic food gardens for Southern Knoll apartments, one of the few complexes that provide recycling, a low income apartment community in the vicinity of Prospect Hill neighborhood and Rose Hill Cemetery, with aims to grow medicinal foods and herbs for the Blue Bee garden pantry program and to provide growing space for residents. Zero has access to hold meetings at the Southern Knoll office, a renovated stone church where the Neighborhood Association meets, can host Work Session meetings there, provided the Google Meet public access can function in the space.

Jami Scholl - Food Resilience document being prepared for next meeting agenda and upcoming Council schedule with time sensitive components and County considerations regarding federal funding deadlines and economic challenges.

Adjourned at 7:31pm