

MEMORANDUM

City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 6:00 pm

Monroe County Public Library, 303 E Kirkwood Ave, Bloomington, IN 47408, Meeting Room A

NOTE: Formal minutes are not produced for committee meetings, however the following memorandum summarizes the discussion content at the BCOS working group meeting.

Meeting Called to Order at 6:11 PM

Chair Present: Justin Vasel

Commissioners Present: Jami Scholl, Annalise Janke, Tara Dunderdale, Matt Austin, Alex Jorck, Quentin Gilly (virtual)

City Staff Present: Jolie Perry

Topics Discussed

IU SPEA Capstone project regarding a sustainable energy utility feasibility analysis

- Alex Jorck reported that he is in the process of communicating with the environmental commission to get feedback on capstone description
- Alex Jorck also reported that he reached out to City Councilmembers to ask what they want to see in the feasibility analysis, with one response received so far

Purchasing supplies for BCOS outreach events

- Commissioners discussed waiting to purchase outreach materials until understanding the likelihood of changing the commission's name.
- Jolie Perry shared information that ESD can purchase outreach supplies for the commissioners' use instead of Tara pursuing a grant for this purpose.
- Commissioners discussed printing flyers in different phases, depending on the event and message desired, so some of the items may be purchased next year
- Tara Dunderdale will contact the seed packet vendor Roundstone to see if an invoice can be made this year, in advance of production and delivery

Addressing food insecurity and federal SNAP benefit lapse

- Justin Vasel shared and discussed the council's upcoming letter encouraging Bloomington residents to participate in more food resilience strategies
- Justin Vasel is drafting a resolution to support the council stance
- Jami Scholl expressed support for a sustained food resilience effort, but discussed concern about the community's ability to handle gaps in local food availability through the winter

Renaming the commission via resolution

- All commissioners discussed adding "resilience" in the commission title and reasons to include resilience in the name of the commission. A few different iterations of the name were suggested, but formal discussion and vote will take place at a future regular business meeting.
- Commissioners discussed how resilience is already in BCOS's purview and discussed how they have historically addressed resilience
- Commissioners discussed how changing the name will impact the public and local organizations understanding of BCOS's mission
- Tara Dunderdale, Jami Scholl, Justin Vasel decided to individually and separately work on drafts of "whereas" clauses for the new draft resolution. Each individual will send the draft directly to Justin Vasel who is compiling the suggestions to bring to the next BCOS regular business meeting.

Working Group Meeting Logistics

- Monroe County Public Library will soon reduce their open hours to end at 7:00 pm, so the working groups need to change the future meeting time or possibly the location

Meeting ended at 7:34 pm

Memorandum prepared by:

Jolie Perry, Sustainability Program Coordinator

City of Bloomington