



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

## COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

### Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 6:00pm

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chair called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

2. **Roll Call:**

#### Members

Commissioner	Present	Virtual	Note
Tara Dunderdale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Justin Vasel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Matt Austin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dave Rollo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quentin Gilly	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Virtual to start. Arrived 6:10
Alex Jorck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:05
Jami Scholl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Annalise Janke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Diana Ogrodowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chenghuai Xu	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Zero Rose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Evan Nix	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
VACANT			
VACANT			



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **City Staff**

Jolie Perry

Shawn Miya

Audrey Brittingham

#### **3. Approval of Agenda**

Diana moved to Approve the Agenda. Dave seconded. Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 9-0-0.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes: Jul 8, 2025 and October 14, 2025**

**ACTION: Justin Moves to approve both sets of minutes. Matt seconded.**

**With a Roll call vote of 8-0-1**

#### **5. Public Comment**

Ellee Spier member of the public - addressed the commission to express concern about the grant process for both the commission and ESD grants, they are complicated which is a barrier to access. Asks for reduction in complexity of process and improvement of the guidance documents to make it easier for the public to access them.

Response from ESD staff - city administers a lot of grants and provides support.

#### **6. Reports from Commissioners**



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**A. Chair (Justin Vasel)- org chart is largely unchanged, some turnover expected at the end of terms in January and there is one candidate up for consideration by council.**

**No working session planned for December.**

**Annual report is in draft and can be reviewed at the December meeting. Grants will be discussed in the agenda item. The education and outreach grant was withdrawn because the city's legal department decided we can work directly with ESD to purchase supplies rather than through a grant.**

**Tara and Justin had a meeting with city legal mostly regarding grant, document management issues, documents being added to on-board, and potential on-board updates, and minutes. ESD expressed interest in taking the minutes which requires a bylaw amendment.**

**There are other bylaw changes the commission has discussed. Open door law requires the documentation of the business decisions.**

**Chair feels it is best for the commission to own the documentation of full discussion and ESD can document business rules. The municipal code says that BCOS is free to conduct business via our bylaws and a change would require a documentation.**

**City staff says they would take the minutes and share with the secretary or vice-chair in their stead to provide input. City needs to**



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**retain document ownership of the documentation of the meeting.**

**City legal interprets the bylaws if the staff does the minutes and collaborates with the secretary would be in compliance with the minutes. Audrey, city legal staff agree. Matt disagreed with legal's interpretation of the bylaws.**

**Justin shared that the open door law requires a memorandum of business decisions, not a minutes documentation of meeting discussions. Proposed records requests could be addressed to the commission. Shawn said issue is continuity, Audrey said documents are required to be retained in perpetuity. Past timeliness issues were brought up of missing minutes. City wants to retain ownership of business documentation. Alex asked about shared google drive ownership, city staff said that is an IT security issue. Tara shared that city IT removed BCOS access in the past.**

**Justin asked for clarification on the difference between minutes and any other document like a draft resolution that has not yet been brought before the commission in a business meeting or working session. Main concern of the city is less public records and more timeliness and continuity between commissioners in the secretary or vice-chair role.**



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**B. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin) - Richland farm, not located in Monroe County but serves the county. They provide residential vegetative food waste composting.**

**C. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo) - Commercial urban ag ordinance was voted down 8-1. Complicated ordinance, referred to things like farms, set back, timing, education and employee component. Several reasons why it failed - evaluating and prioritizing those components was difficult. The employees and education component could be addressed in code that already covers indoor businesses. There was also significant blowback from people in the community to the ordinance. Suggested this commission and/or city council and planning commission have a co-deliberation session to talk about these points and work through some of the nuance. There is an existing urban ag ordinance that does allow growing.**

**Tomorrow the council is hearing an ordinance on SROs (single room occupancy) - similar to a boarding house. There are issues related to Tara asks if it was an adjustment of an existing category or a new category - Dave shared it is a new category - replacing the residential rooming house category. It is currently limited to 3 bedrooms in residential areas. It is effectively a pilot to see if it would work.**



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**Matt asked what some of the community concerns are. Tara asked what is the difference with the multiple use student housing that currently allows renting of individual rooms in the meeting. State law prohibits rent caps but the idea is these would be low rent options but that is not enforceable. The hud standards limit the number of adults but not children. Dave suggested members of the commission attend the business meeting tomorrow where it is up for a second reading tomorrow. November 19th.**

#### **7. Discussion of Topics Not the Subject of Resolutions**

- a. Working Group Grant Application on “Community Food Waste Education & Network Development” (bokashi) - Matt Austin shared a back ground of the original grant idea to work with Taste of Bloomington to collect food waste, bring to Will detmer community garden, and conduct education sessions. The grant was rejected by ESD because of appearance of impropriety because of Matt’s relationship to the ED of the non-profit facilitating the work. Justin shared a timeline of some of the communication - October 31 ESD asked for revisions which Justin made, project lead was transferred to Justin, and removed hourly wage costs, then Tara and Justin were called into a meeting with the city and told the appearance of impropriety was strong enough that legal won’t**



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

approve it. Justin agreed those are valid concerns and one the commission is invested in. GardenQuest is the only organization in the city offering these services, however Matt is a commissioner creating potential conflict of interest. Justin shared the frustration of not knowing the requirements and the work put into a proposal that was known by the city would not be approved regardless of edits. Agenda item is here for discussion by the commission. Justin has also asked for updates from ESD for the SOP about the grants to make sure commissioners are putting together a proposal that is in compliance.

Quentin asked if there was documentation for all commissions on business rules or ethical guidelines. Justin shared that the city said training and onboarding for all commissioners is in the works and they hope to implement early next year but not clear on the timeline. Matt asked why GardenQuest is different from other neighborhood grants that GardenQuest has been approved of. Feels like the city is not interested in the food waste reduction.

Shawn responded that for sustainable neighborhood grants were for neighbors to collect recyclable items, but that the food waste project included sale of items. Earlier proposal was not reviewed by legal because it was funded by the waste reduction district - legal and



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

office of the mayor reviewed the new version, and that it is inappropriate for the city to fund a project that includes sale of product. The city is ok with BCOS working with GardenQuest but Matt would have to step down before any funding could be provided. Justin brought up that if the issue was the sale of the buckets was the issue why that was not asked to be removed. Matt said he would consider stepping down to facilitate the work.

Jami shared that some clearer guidelines or cases studies would be allowed or what would apply or what we would qualify for. Tara brought up that two time she asked city staff about allowable uses of funds and was told that ESD was not staffed to consider the grant ideas and that the department being understaffed is not the responsibility of the commission to do less work. Tara pointed out that commissioners are volunteers and have spent considerable personal time to develop grant proposals that ESD indicated they could not support regardless of when projects were brought to the commission. Diana clarified that it is a lack of good faith in the working relationship between ESD and the commissions.

Quentin asked if there is a workable solution - better clarified SOP or a precedent for sending to council for overriding. City shared the funds are executive branch funds so it wouldn't be a city council





## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

**override. Audrey shared that there is a legal statute and the appearance of impropriety issues, and admitted there are city responsibilities to better train and onboard commissioners. Audrey offered herself as a point of contact, Tara pointed out that we have been asked not to contact city staff directly. Audrey said we can email her and cc ESD staff for transparency.**

#### **8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion**

- a. VOTE: Resolution 2025-04 to recommend incorporating “resilience” to the Commission’s name**

**ACTION:** Alex moved to adopt resolution 2025-04. Jami seconded.

Moved to discussion - Justin shared the amendment as a single amended document. Justin recommended procedural approach to adopt.

**ACTION:** Annalise moved to adopt amendment 1. Diana seconded.

Quentin asked if this was changing the scope of our mission. Justin clarified it is changing the name to reflect the existing scope.

There was a discussion of grammatical changes in the first whereas clause - no motion brought.

Discussion of adding additional scope of work to the last whereas clause - clause was not intended as a change in scope of work but a clarification of the commission’s work for the public. No motion brought forward.

Quentin asked for clarification of the third whereas clause - Dave shared some historic context around the original creation of BCOS.

Attachment 1 contains draft ordinance text for the council that reflects the amended version with an additional whereas clause that adds reference to the passage of this amendment.

Justin moved to extend to 7:45 - no objections. Annalise had to leave following the vote but there is still quorum.

Action: moved to vote to adopt amendment 1.



## **CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**

### **COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Motion **Passed** with a **Roll Call** vote of 9-0-0.

Moved to discussion on the resolution. No amendment brought forward to change the name in the resolution.

Motion passes with a roll call vote of 8-0-0

Justin will send the resolution to the council president, city attorney, city clerk, and ESD.

#### **9. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion**

a. n/a

#### **10. Report from Staff Liaison**

a. ESD applied for funding for market forming grant - the goal is to bring low cost capital for list of potential products. Coalition for green capital is the funding partner. ESD will provide free technical assistance to organizations to generate the list of projects. Partnering with organization called electrify indiana to do a public outreach campaign. Indiana Energy Independence Fund. Competing with 48 other cities for the investing.

There are volunteer needs.

#### **11. Member Announcements**

n/a

#### **12. New Business**

n/a

#### **13. Adjournment**

**Matt motioned to adjourn. Jami seconded.**

Adjourned at 7:42.



Next meeting December 9, 2025.