Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

MAY 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 6:02 pm
McCloskey Conference Room – City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

Roll Call:

Members

Commissioner	**Presence**	**Notes**
Tara Dunderdale	Present	
Justin Vasel	Present	
Rebecca Payne	Present	
Christopher Miles	Virtual	
Zachary Ammerman	Present	
Quentin Gilly	Virtual	*Commissioner Gilly arrived in person at 6:23 pm*
Alex Jorck	Present	
Maria Aarstad	Present	
—	Vacant	
Diana Ogrodowski	Present	
Ross Carlson	Present	
—	Vacant	
—	Vacant	
Dave Rollo *(Council Ex Officio)*	Present	

City Staff Present: Jolie Perry

2. **Approval of Agenda**
    a. Brief discussion on moving the staff liaison report up in the agenda, decided against it
    b. Commissioner Carlson **moved to approve,** Commissioner Dunderdale seconded
        i. Approved 11-0

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Commissioner Dunderdale **moved to approve**, Ogrodowski seconded
    i. Approved 11-0

4. Public Comment

a. **Former Commissioner Matt Austin** asked to indefinitely postpone or vote against the resolution he sponsored on glyphosate at a previous meeting (Resolution 2026-04)
    i. Also mentioned Wonderlab events summer blast off, starting bokashi and doing a training on bokashi in September

5. Commissioner Reports

a. **Chair Report**
    i. Chairperson Vasel introduced new Commissioner Rebecca Payne.

b. **Council Ex Officio**
    i. Council unanimously approved the Hopewell South development. Streetscapes and wider sidewalks were included in reasonable conditions. 35% of the units will be affordable, up from 15% initially proposed by administration.
    ii. May 13 at 6:30 pm is a deliberation session of the council about snow on sidewalks. It has been a perpetual problem for pedestrians after snowstorms. Thinking of ways to make sure enforcement occurs.
    iii. Rollo is working on an AI project. The county put a moratorium on data centers for one year which expires in July. He would like to encourage the county to make the moratorium permanent.
    iv. Working on a "rhetorical" moratorium to encourage the state to take action against artificial general intelligence. May be coming at the June 10 Council meeting. Discussed the possibility of speaking about the resolution at our next meeting June 9.
    v. Commissioner Dunderdale asked if there would be public comment at the deliberative session on snow removal. Rollo indicated there would be.
    vi. Chairperson Vasel asked for more details about the resolution of the reasonable condition disagreement between the Council and the Mayor. Council has hired a lawyer who disagrees with the administration's assessment that reasonable conditions are not allowed, the administration legal team still disagrees, but the Council hiring a lawyer has allowed the Council to move forward with them.

6. Discussions Not the Subject of a Resolution

a. O'Neill Capstone Presentation on SEUs
    i. Commissioner Dunderdale praised the quality of the presentation and the content. Brought up the idea of creating some sort of basic guide for other commissions who might want to use a similar capstone project.
    ii. Commissioner Ammerman praised the quality of the presentation and the content but expressed some regret that they didn't really answer the question of how to set up an SEU – stating it was not illegal or impossible, as their report suggested, but simply difficult. He liked the presentation, learned a lot from it, but would have liked more engagement on the actual question of the SEU.
    iii. Commissioner Jorck liked the presentation and learned a lot. Said that his SPEA contacts told him the students really loved the project and they would be very

excited about doing similar projects. Liked Dunderdale's idea of setting up a blueprint to send to other commissions to do similar projects.

iv. Commissioner Gilly suggested we need more engagement with Duke.

b. Need for Additional Commission Meeting/Working Time

i. Staff member Perry suggested working group time should be on a specific topic ideally. And also having some time to prioritize long-term planning is a good idea.

ii. Commissioner Ammerman mentioned that the Commission only meets for an hour and a half per month, and has a quite strict enforcement of meeting end times, which he said combines to create a situation with insufficient time for the type of ambitious agenda we should strive for as a group. He said he would like to move to scheduling two meetings per month, suggesting perhaps alternating between two business meetings and then the next month a business meeting and a working meeting, but agnostic about the exact details. He said that the Commission could always schedule two meetings per month, hold at least one as required and cancel the second one if the Commission finds it's not needed that month. Commissioner Ammerman noted that the ordinance language referring to one meeting per month was somewhat ambiguous and, while not using the explicit 'minimum' wording found in some other commission ordinances, is more naturally read as establishing a floor rather than a ceiling, especially considering similar provisions for other commissions, and that this reading is consistent with the special meeting authority given to the Commission.

iii. Commissioner Dunderdale said we need to make sure we have a sufficient quorum for any additional meetings before scheduling them. Also mentioned that Roberts Rules may slow us down but any change on that would have to go through Council as Roberts Rules are required to be used by statute.

iv. Commissioner Miles brought up the topic of the purpose of the commission, what its purpose is. Whether it's for resolutions only or providing general advice and a venue for discussion for Commissioners on city policy and programs. He said he would support more efforts for general strategic planning and less for proposing resolutions.

v. Commissioner Dunderdale's impression was that the city was not in good faith willing to work with us on planning additional meetings. That the city administration is not necessarily willing to give us the flexibility to work with us.

vi. Ammerman said he agreed with Dunderdale's assessment, that the city administration was not acting as a good faith ally to city commissions on this topic.

vii. Staff member Perry asked that any meetings held have a clear purpose, and noted concerns about staff time.

viii. Chairperson Vasel suggested having a few targeted strategy sessions to dig into these questions in more detail and then moving from there.

ix. Staff member Perry mentioned that the city would likely be doing training for commissioners in June, a few commissioners suggested perhaps doing the strategic meetings at some point soon after that.

7. Resolutions for First Reading

a. **Resolution 2026-05: Concerning Anticoagulant Rodenticides and Adhesive-Based Animal Traps and Their Impact on the Biodiversity Crisis**

i. **Presenter**: Commissioner Ammerman

ii. **Action Item**: Advancement of the Resolution to Second Reading

1. Ammerman moved to advance to a second reading. Dunderdale seconded.
2. Ammerman briefly presented the main points of the resolution, and mentioned the memorandum in the meeting packet he had written laying out its rationale, asking members to please read it before the meeting in June.
3. Motion passes 11-0

8. Resolutions for Second Reading

a. **Resolution 2026-03: Concerning the Pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue and Sustainable Transportation**
   i. **Presenter**: Commissioner Ammerman
   ii. **Action Item:** Adoption of the Resolution
      1. Gilly **moved to consider the resolution for approval**, Jorck seconded.
      2. Ammerman outlined the main recommendations of the Resolution.
      3. Rollo mentioned that the Council is considering a resolution to do something along the lines of what the resolution is promoting. Mentioned that the Council and Mayor are in dispute about the status of whether the Council or the Mayor has control over city streets, and that in the past the Council has always been able to have control over street decisions.
      4. Commissioner Jorck expressed support for the resolution. He has visited several successful pedestrian streets in analog cities and has seen their success.
      5. Commissioner Dunderdale expressed some thoughts on accessibility, but that accessibility is outside of the scope of just pedestrianization and is more about the lack of enforcement of existing accessibility rules in all contexts.
      6. Commissioner Payne expressed support for the resolution.
      7. Ammerman **moved to amend** for accessibility concerns as submitted in written format, Dunderdale seconded.
         a. Amendment passed 11-0
      8. Jorck **moved to amend** lines 50-52 to strengthen the language on permanent streetscape improvements. Ammerman seconded.
         a. Amendment passed 11-0
      9. Jorck **moved to amend** to add language just before the last Whereas clause to state that the Kirkwood pedestrian program could serve as an example for Indiana University. Ammerman seconded.
         a. Amendment passed 11-0
      10. Commissioner Aarstad pointed out that Kirkwood has recently been designated by the Board of Public Works as an official festival footprint corridor.
      11. Ammerman **moved to amend** to add a Whereas clause reflecting Aarstad's comment, Jorck seconded
         a. Amended passed 11-0
   iii. Rollo **moved to extend the meeting to 7:45 pm**, Dunderdale seconded
         a. Motion passed 11-0

b. Resolution passed 11-0

c. Rollo **moved to allow Ammerman to present** the resolution to the Council at an upcoming meeting discussing Kirkwood, Ogrodowski seconded.

i. Motion passed 11-0

d. **Resolution 2026-04: Against the Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices**
   i. **Presenter**: NA (initially introduced for second reading and discussed in depth at April meeting, discussion postponed until May meeting, Former Commissioner Matt Austin, who had introduced, it has since left the Commission)
   ii. **Action Item**: Adoption of the Resolution
      1. Chairperson Vasel explained procedure
      2. Jorck moved to consider the resolution, Ogrodowski seconded
      3. Commissioner Ross expressed that he does have concern about glyphosate and some of the herbicides no matter what happens with the resolution
      4. Ammerman moved to **postpone indefinitely**, Carlson seconded.
         a. Ammerman said he thought the discussion was great but that the current form of the resolution was not one that he could support. He also stated that he thinks concerns about pesticide use are very valid and that he shares some of them, but that the current form of the resolution was not one he could support.
         b. Motion to postpone indefinitely approved 11-0

9. Staff Liaison Report

a. Training for staff liaisons and then commissioners are expected in May and June, respectively.
b. Accessibility compliance (WCAG 2.2) has been postponed a year but the city's goal is still to follow the compliance rules before the rule requiring compliance comes into force.

10. Member Announcements

a. Commissioner Dunderdale noted that there was a scheduled one-night pedestrianization of Kirkwood Avenue on May 13.
b. Commissioner Ogrodowski noted that Hoosier Action is hosting several events open to the community on housing practices and advocacy in the city.
c. Commissioner Miles noted that there is a similar event outside of Friendly Beasts and Seminary Point, throwing a block party with music in favor of protecting that property from being lost to development.
d. Councilmember Rollo noted that he appreciated the memorandum on chicken poultry flock sizes. He also noted that the final considerations for the Jack Hopkins social funding is May 26, awarding $500,000. He noted there was nearly $700,000 in requests.

11. New Business

a. None

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Vasel at 7:41 pm