



Commission on Sustainability
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 6-7:30
McCloskey Room

Attendees: Alex Crowley, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Sneha Dave, Dave Rollo, Chris, Cynthia, Erin Hatch, Jana McGee, Gwen

Regrets: Sheryl Woodhouse-Keese, Nejla Routsong

On leave: Olivia Ranseen

Announcements:

- Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Bird Fest, April 7th, 1-4 pm at the IU Research and Teaching Preserve; they have 16 activity booths; want additional supporters. Environmental and Conservation focused, but welcome broad collaboration. All ages are welcome.
- Dave Rollo: advisory for board of parks. They are working on a plan for extensive trails throughout Griffey. Steve Kotter is working on that and maybe it is something that could interest the commission. Prairie restoration at the old Goat Farm. Planted by Eco-logic.
- Killdeer and other ground nesting birds... needs to be done to protect nesting season. What should be done to protect, triage these things? Send note to parks and rec? Should be something for the environmental commission? Maybe just a reminder of best practices for this bioregion; find the document. Email sent by Dave to Steve Cotter and others as a reminder.
- Invite Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Bloomington to speak to the BCOS.

Report from Alex Crowley:

Initial public meetings have been completed and one round with all the subcommittees. On the whole, seems to be going well. Working groups are up and running and learning. The Sustainability position with the City will be filled March 26 if all goes well. Hoosier to Hoosier has kicked off its planning for 2018. Americorps collaboration. They come in for 6 weeks, 8-12 people, and work. Do we have projects that we want them to put against? H2H will use them for 2-3 weeks but after that they'll need work.

Reach out to Alex Crowley to work or help with H2H. Bike share, soft launch in the spring and want to do soft roll out and then learn, controlled, and a more substantial roll out in the fall. 150 bikes for soft roll out. This will be dockless, without a “rack”. The new system is a bike with GPS and it can lock and unlock itself. So you get bike focused transit data. Looking to see if bike infrastructure is aligned with needs. Find the bike closest to you using the app. It will be managed via text or smartphone, so should be fairly accessible. Zagster is the provider, and Pace is the brand.

Anne Hedin Presentation – Time to Choose – Cancellation and will reschedule.

BCOS social media outlet – How to obtain?

There are three for sustainability; Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. How do we post or should we? Can we have our own or should we? Especially relevant with the sustainability awards. The city reviewed this and wants to consolidate all these, so that there is good traffic on one or two sites, rather than a ton of separate sites for each group. Alex suggests that having one is ok, but you want to be sure you can maintain and keep it relevant. The Mayor’s office has its own. For things like the awards, they can put things out across their social media so that is another option, without creating your own account. Alex suggests that have them post it and then we (BCOS) can share across our networks.

Bloomington Sustainable City is the main site.

BCOS elections in July

Elections for officers. All offices are open for nomination and election. We have 4 offices. We will also decide co-chair or chair, vice-chair structure. If you are interested please refer to the bylaws. 6 months to be eligible to run. The commission is full at this point.

Report from Co-chairs

Josh Tewksbury was here talking about the [Anthropocene magazine](#). It is a PBS radio model to pay for a subscription to pay for the magazine.

Letter Writing Template

Create a template when we want to communicate comments on state regulations, to mayor’s office, etc. It is intended just as a template for commenting in a formal way for efficiency purposes. In the shared drive are tips for effective public comment. Chris offered to take the first crack at writing this.

The city has a lobbying firm that works for the city and they get a huge amount of data about things that are coming that might be relevant for the group. The session is ending, but in the future, Alex could cull some of that. Or, we could use the Hoosier Environmental Council to get a picture of what is important and happening at the state level. HEC might be a bit too narrow on social equity and economic.

One idea is that someone sets up to be the eyes and ears of the Commission on what is happening at the State House.

Commission Strategic Plan Goals

Indicators

Gwen is working on the ISO framework and doing data collection. There are core indicators and supporting indicators. To submit to world council on city data—you have to report at least the 46 core indicators. Gwen has 40 indicators, but not all are the “core indicators.” If you committed to helping with this, please connect with Gwen on this. Public policy institute at IUPUI has all kinds of data, some of which is relevant, but it is only by city but now it is by county. Gwen will be getting additional data from them after her request. One item is “slums” but we don’t know what that means. So, we need an operational standard for that term to be sure that we are reporting correctly.

Awards

March 21 City hall chamber will be the awards. Center for Sustainable Living will be there and a variety of folks. Press release went out.

Food Policy

Exploring food waste among restaurants. There is a food sourcing coordinator; they have partnerships with Target, Walmart, and Bloomingfoods. Hoosier Hills Food bank. Amazed, sounds like they do a heck of job.

Looking a food policy. Portland has an impressive plan. Could be a good time because of the UDO update coming up. The comprehensive plan mentions food dozens of times. Continue and expand city public land use for growing food. Culture and identity—food connection is made. Etc. Adoption of local food charter. And also in Chapter 7 on land use. We should devote some time to the comprehensive plan and talk about how it relates to local food and look at Portland or another city. And see what is possible in Bloomington

3/13/18 MINUTES upon Andy’s departure.

Food Policy & Resilience

Dave asked for a review of Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) pertaining to food policy. How much economy comes from local food production? We would like feedback from the Commission for the next working meeting because feedback is needed for development of the UDO. From Alex, the City is looking at the ecosystem, looking at the USDA food coordinator producing side with the market side of the equation.

Sustainability Action Plan is bringing together the perspectives of food raisers and food sources. Resiliency is a good concept to bring back into the food policy equation. Dave is focused on the UDO.

Ask Alex: does each City department having its own sustainability systems vision?

We would like a breakout working session on the UDO. Should tie Commission suggestions to UDO sections and corresponding CMP chapters. Have a guiding plan for the coming 3 work sessions in order to organizational strategy to contribute to the UDO. Dave suggests. CMP will be integrated into the UDO.

Ideal: Devote 20-30 minutes of the coming work session to reviewing CMP for food policy.

Teddie. There will be a presentation on May 8 by the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Climate Change student group on resolutions. The students will film the presentation so that we can preview it before they present it to City Council. They want a letter of support from BCOS to encourage City Council. Nejla and her Ivy Tech students can carry it further. There is a large contingency of cities with resolutions, so it will be nice that Bloomington has its own resolutions.

Sustainable Action Plan.

The Work Groups for SAP were well organized and considered new information. Six goals were filtered into a time frame. The resulting document will be a changeable. It would be helpful if zoning keeps chain stores off the square in order to encourage local businesses and the concomitant increase in money staying in Bloomington.

Sustainability, arts, and economics are triaging to benefit the City. The City is focused on incentives for development. Local First movement is focused on the local economy. (DBI) Downtown Bloomington Inc. focuses on local. It would be great to invite some of groups to present to the BCOS such as Local First, DBI (Downtown Bloomington, Inc), and the BDEC. How to generate new jobs? Gwen will make a list on the shared Google drive of: potential speakers.