



Minutes

Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Gwen White (Chair), Teddie Mower, Chris Reinhart, Pam Weaver, Cynthia Bretheim, Jana, McGee, Erin Hatch
 - Absent: Olivia Ranseen, Sneha Dave, Nejla Routsong
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Teddie moved to approve the agenda, Pam seconded. Unanimous voice vote of approval of agenda. Agenda approved.
4. Approval of October Meetings minutes
 - Pam motioned to approve October 10/23 working session minutes, Teddie seconded. Unanimous voice vote to approve. Working session minutes approved.
 - Chris motioned to approve October 10/9 meeting minutes, Pam seconded. Unanimous voice vote to approve minutes. October meeting minutes approved.
5. Announcements
 - Jana McGee: I attended a dinner and advocacy meeting at Mother Hubbard's meeting recently, and they are looking to advocate in regard to three different bills at the Indiana General Assembly. They are looking for people to join onto these advocacy campaigns. Their next meeting is December 14th.
6. Public Comment
 - No public comment.
7. Presentation - Elle Spier, GardenQ LLC, Childs Elementary PTO Sustainability Chair
 - From Bloomington originally, and returned to Bloomington with children now at Childs Elementary. My kids noted the wastefulness at their school, specifically with food and other waste in the cafeteria. As a result the suggested a waste audit at their school and piloted a composting program.

We were able to find grants and volunteers to conduct this audit and implement the pilot program. Over the past year and a half, we have tweaked the composting process, and see how best to engage the students appropriately. The school has now taken up the program themselves. In order to make these changes more official, rather than just a group of renegade parents, we started a sustainability committee to conduct these improvements. However the programs still depended on the parents acquiring the funding themselves either through fundraising or grants. From this pilot project, we discovered a drainage issue at the school, resulting in pooling water. This led to installation of a rain garden to address the problem, this project still required parents finding funds. We partnered with the sycamore knolls neighborhood association and utilized grant money from HAND to construct this rain garden. However, discovered that this project was going to cost a significant amount more than the grant. We had over 20 different community partners, who were able to donate equipment and expertise. Students were involved in some aspects of the process, such as planting and mulching, to educate them on the project. The Girl Scout troop at Childs conducted research to create educational sings for the rain garden. This rain garden will be open to the community. In planning this project, we talked with previous installers of rain gardens to figure out what has worked and not worked, such as making paths between planting rows wide enough for movement of wheelbarrows during maintenance. Now we are currently putting together a maintenance plan so that this project can be owned and managed by the school after my own children leave. In terms of the compost project, we are utilizing food from the cafeteria, however this has been a bit limited due to using a worm based system and the lack of a hands-on manager employed by the school. We did a pilot harvest for the vegetable garden to the students teach how to use these gardens to cook and try and incorporate it into the classroom curriculum. Right now we are looking to expand this program to other organization until MCCSC wants to run the program. The Boys and Girls Club Crestmont is interested. Looking for community partners, in the form of volunteers, or building connections with qualified individuals.

8. Presentation - Brian Payne, Assistant Director for Small Business Development, City of Bloomington
 - Was asked by Autumn to come talk about economic sustainability, and place BCOS in the context of existing economic development happenings in the city. Also, I can talk about other initiatives coming down the pipeline. First, I will outline some major projects happening in the next 3-5 years. Bloomington's trades district is a 12 acre district consolidated and owned by redevelopment district. This district will include a tech incubator property, the Mill, two new curbless streets, and an extension of Madison street. The idea behind this district is for it to be a shovel ready area where businesses and other centers of commerce can come and operate. We have companies that have already committed to build there,

such as Tascus, who already committed to build a R&D office there including 50-70 high paying jobs. We now have a remaining 6-8 acres that need to be actively marketed. Alex and Brian have hired a master broker for the area, Dave Harsted, who will take a professional approach to market the area. The next project is the Convention Center, we now have a food and beverage tax to fund the convention center. Next is the current IU Health site, and we have consulted on a suggested plan for re-use of this area. IU Health will either raise the entire area or keep whatever buildings desired. Next is Switchyard park, which is a 40 million dollar investment slated to be done by 2019. This project runs across B-line trail and will include an amphitheater. The new IU Health Site is another center for potential development. This site will include the new IU Health hospital, a nursing school, and a school for social work. I-69 at some point will be finished with two interchanges. Cook purchased the former GE site. The Bloomington population is outpacing national projections, this rate is roughly matching the increasing population of IU student increasing.

- Pam: Are there any sort of existing effort for trying to sustain existing businesses rather than inviting new businesses?
- Brian: Bloomington is pretty small in size, so we can't invite factories as we don't have space. Most incentives we use are for the actual development of structures, for affordable housing, or for example Cook to purchase new equipment. Most of these incentives are for existing companies to expand.
- Pam: What about efforts to increase economic activity locally?
- Brian: We are a funder and member of Downtown Bloomington Inc. and the Chamber of Commerce, to ensure wealth and success stay in Bloomington. Retail nation wide is taking a hit.
- Erin: Does the City of Bloomington have guidelines for the government requiring local procurement?
- Brian: Local can be taken into account when evaluating procurement, but the lowest bid will be taken.
- Pam: How are we helping local retailers counteract globalization of businesses?
- Brian: The chamber of commerce is holding a retailer summit to help teach best management practices. Also, other organizations are leading education to help retailers educate adapt to the online environment. The urban enterprise support organization gives out grants to help educate and improve businesses. Currently, we have a business strategic plan in the works. We do not have incentives to help with trade adjustments for local businesses or to help adjust to a changing national market.
- Chris: Are there resources located somewhere, online perhaps, that the average citizen can easily see what their city government is doing to attract new businesses and maintain local businesses? Along with what their money goes to. Is there some sort of clearing house for this

information? If this doesn't exist, maybe BCOS, through the sustainability newsletter, can help to communicate these things.

- Brian: It is a common lament that the various organizations are not aligned in terms of message and coordination, this one of the things brought up and worked on through the wage growth task force. The Chamber of Commerce got a new head. Also, we have the BDC in transition, with Lyn Coyn stepping down next year. In terms of a comprehensive place for individuals in the city to search for information on economic resources, we currently do not have a singular coordinated source. That sort of resource should be come up in next years economic strategic plan. In the short term we are compiling economic aggregate data to help direct people, but right now this doesn't exist to the way that it should.
- Pam: We don't have a person right now going out to try and help small local businesses prevent going out of businesses.
- Chris: There isn't nearly as much money involved to support that sort of thing.
- Pam: It seems that the whole ecosystem of financing is geared towards growth than sustainability.
- Brian: We are a community where wages have been stagnant and we are dependent on two anchor employers. If we increase growth it will help better sustain the community in a long term.
- Chris: The idea of a common brand between the city's ESD department and the chamber is great. There are many different stakeholders, so they have different priorities for what type of growth is best.
- Brian: It seems that BCOS is well positioned to be a stakeholders, and for the upcoming economic strategic plan, and also educating the public and other stakeholders about the holistic view sustainability which includes economic sustainability.

~~9. Meeting attendance impact on BCOS~~

~~10. Commission strategic plan goals – updates~~

~~a. Sustainability Indicators~~

~~b. Sustainability Awards (Document on Google Drive)~~

~~c. Food Policy~~

~~d. Climate Action~~

~~e. Sustainable City Planning~~

~~f. Collaboration~~

~~11. New Business~~

12. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Monthly Meeting – December 11, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Auxiliary aids for people with disabilities are available upon request with adequate notice. Please call 812.349.3837.