



# Minutes

## Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 6:00 p.m.  
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
  - Present: Matt Flaherty, Erin Hatch, Gwen White (Chair), Olivia Ranseen, Cynthia Bretheim, Pam Weaver, Teddie Mower, Jana McGee
  - Absent: Sneha Dave, Nejla Routsong, Christopher Reinhart, Andrew Predmore, Dave Rollo
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Teddie asks to amend the agenda to add a vote to write a letter of endorsement for the YES Resolution
  - Pam moved to support the amendment, Cynthia seconded, unanimous voice vote yes. Approved to amend the agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes, January 22 and February 12, 2019 minutes
  - Matt moved to approve the minutes for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, Pam seconded. Unanimous voice vote to approve. Minutes for January 22<sup>nd</sup> approved.
  - Pam moved to approve the minutes for February 12<sup>th</sup>, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote to approve. Minutes for February 12<sup>th</sup> approved.
5. Announcements
  - Teddie: BirdFest is happening April 13<sup>th</sup> 1 - 4 pm in Karst Farm Park. The Indiana Audubon Society and statewide youth Audubon Society are participating this year. Still looking for volunteers for the event.
  - Matt: GreenDrinks tomorrow at Upland Brewery. Loren Woods Builder will be talking about the with community housing project, which is a sustainable development of small footprint buildings. Michael Forester, the Energy Manager for Cincinnati, will be speaking April 5<sup>th</sup> in SPEA A335, 1 - 2:30pm. The City Council is re-addressing the 4<sup>th</sup> St. Garage Bonds.
  - Olivia: James Balog film screening at the Buskirk-Chumley April 9<sup>th</sup>. Starts at 5:30 pm with film starting at 7:30 pm.

- Gwen: This conflicts with our meeting time, but we could move this especially if Beth Rosenbarger our speaker would want to go to the event.
- Matt: May 10<sup>th</sup> is a council work session to review amendments to the Transportation Plan, so moving it to May 14<sup>th</sup> might be too late.

#### 6. Public Comment

- No public comment.

#### 7. YES Resolution

- Teddie: YES are writing up a sheet explaining how the resolution has changed. The Environmental Commission also voted to provide a letter of support.
- Matt: My only comments were on section 2 and 3. I had wanted some tweaks for section 1 to make it stronger, but I don't know much about what language we could use due to legal restrictions surrounding building codes. I suggested in section 2, some sort of acknowledgement that what they mean is not city government but all sectors in the city (residential, commercial, transportation, etc.). I just wondered if a footnote was needed to clarify. Also, I wondered about recognizing that Bloomington residents and citizens are required to purchase electricity from Duke energy, and acknowledge that we are not a deregulated energy state where we can choose what our energy mix is. Acknowledgement of this fact might be helpful for the resolution to act as a jumping off point for actions.
- Teddie: I know they had a meeting scheduled with the Bloomington Transit center appointment.
- Matt: For section 3, when they say non-transit natural gas usage, they are talking about space heating and conditioning, which may need clarification. Also they may want to add efficient options versus just renewable, as energy efficient solutions are the lowest hanging fruit. If you can make building units more efficient you can get more reductions for cheaper than switching to renewable.
- Teddie: The city councilors have the right to amend the resolution as they want, and we can make suggestions to them to strengthen it at the time.
- Cynthia: Was route 3 extended to Ivy Tech, do you remember Matt?
  - Matt: Bloomington Transit is doing a route optimization study right now and have two potential scenarios. They have lines that go to Ivy Tech, 2 lines in one scenario and 3 lines in the other. These are a Hub and spoke model versus an optimized corridors model.
- *Pam moves to approve a letter of support for the YES Resolution, Teddie seconded. Unanimous vote in support to a letter of support. Approved.*

#### 8. Report from Department of Economic and Sustainable Development

- No report as Autumn and Alex are absent. Alex will be the interim liaison for now.

#### 9. Commission strategic plan goals - updates

- Sustainability Indicators
  - No updates,

- Sustainability Awards –
  - Award Statues
    - Ryan Mandel, who created previous award statues, has agreed to create ones for this year as well. However, will need to purchase new material so will require some budget money, but minimal, \$39.
  - Change Work Session from April 23 to May 7 – Finalize awards
    - Teddie: Did we find out if everything is set up for marketing and communications?
    - Gwen: We need to follow up how the nominations form is accessible. Teddie will contact Alex to work that out the form and a press release.
- Food Policy –
  - Jana: Update on bills that on Mother Hubbard's were following. TANF bill was voted due pass and referred to the House ways and means committee, so still in the running.
    - Olivia: What is the bill for TANF doing?
    - Jana: The bill is to update the metrics, as the numbers are from 90s or 80s.
- Climate Action
  - No action.
- Sustainable City Planning
  - No action.
- Collaboration
  - No action.

#### 10. Report from Chair – Indianapolis Resiliency Plan

- Gwen: The City of Indianapolis through its campaign, Thrive Indianapolis, put together a Resiliency Plan. We had talked about this before in terms of terminology. The plan is online and was released a month or so ago.
  - Matt: They were also one of 20 cities that got that Bloomberg grant.
  - Gwen: I think we should read this plan and think about how it is applicable it to us. This would be useful to reexamine our goals and strategic plan.

#### 11. BCOS Attendance

- Gwen: We do have bylaws and 3 absences are the max, but we don't enforce it. I don't want to be the enforcer. If we show up and don't have a quorum then we have wasted time. On a continual basis it affects how we are able to conduct business. If we do want to do something it does affect that. We need to clarify what 3 absences are, and maybe a start date of enforcement. You have to vote in person, and without a quorum we can't conduct business.
- Pam: Asking someone to commit to meetings every two weeks may be a lot, then maybe it could be based on the monthly meetings.

- Matt: A few best practices would be making it clear that members are expected to come and that if you are not going individuals are required to send a notification. You should follow up if people miss a meeting to remind them of the policy. Make sure that when the council or the mayor interviews potential members they make sure they are pressing the importance of attendances to applicants.
- Pam: Maybe we can draft a letter the city can give to everyone who wants to apply.

12. New Business

- No new business.

13. Adjournment

- Olivia motioned to adjourn., pam seconded. Unanimous voice vote to adjourn.

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session, Tuesday, April 9, 2019, McCloskey Room (#135), 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.