



MINUTES
Commission on Sustainability
McCloskey Conference Room - City Hall
Tuesday, April 12th, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Motion from Joseph- Relocate 12.2 from item 12 to item 13.2, motion passed
 - b. Modified agenda approved
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
- 5. Public Comment (15-20 minutes, up to 3 minutes per person)**
 - a. Environmental Commission- Wildlife Corridor- Biodiversity working group working group met
 - i. Purpose to mitigate soil erosion, green canopy, importance of biodiversity
 - ii. 1200 callery pears planted by the city in the neighborhoods- growing due to invasive nature costs \$1200/tree for removal
 - iii. Serious problem jeopardizing wildlife
 - iv. Wanted to explore opportunity of sustainability commission join with biodiversity committee to address the issue
- 6. Report from Co-Chairs**
 - a. Per BCOS bylaws Nejla and Joe created assignment of responsibilities, Joe will scan in and upload it to the drive
 - b. Voice votes are permitted when there is no voting member attending virtually
- 7. Report from Staff Liaison**
 - a. Council Climate committee met 3/29- focus on current sustainability programs this year and legislation, Slides are attached to email
 - b. Holly Warren has arts survey out to get feedback on how people use art spaces and to explore potential public investment
 - i. Get a broad range of perspectives and how people in Bloom use the art spaces currently
 - c. Upcoming public meetings
 - i. Proposal being considered by Bloomington City Council for new revenue- linked in the email
 - ii. Vote on increase in local income tax and general obligation bond
 - d. Patrick w/ community climate solutions on Zoom to show us the beta form of the website and to get feedback and provide a demo
 - e. Movement on litigation against forest service for lack of sufficient public participation
- 8. Report from Council Ex Officio**

- a. If anyone wants to engage in the council meetings- see email for more details

9. Discussions not resolutions- Report from Committees

- a. Just Transition Event and April 11 debrief with EJS, next steps
 - i. About half of commission attended, presenters felt the community was very engaged
 - ii. Overall- solidified it's something we need to keep working on
 - iii. In Oakland- did community listening session (next step for Bloom)
 - 1. Consider inequality during next steps of CAP implementation
 - iv. Produce a document to come out of the working group for the annual report- Memo or resolution- not decided yet
 - 1. Hoping in the next year take the info from the event and focus groups to create something similar to what they did in Oakland- final Equitable Climate Action Plan
 - v. Notes from the event are in the collaboration folder in the BCOS drive

10. Discussions Not Resolutions

- a. Demo of Climate Action Site
- b. Patrick (program manager with Community Climate Solutions)
 - i. Pathway towards a 0 Carbon future- specified for Bloomington
 - 1. Create profile, Shows comparison and can track and show tangible change due to actions
 - 2. Highlights savings to combat idea that sustainability is costly
 - 3. Energy profile- optional
 - a. Inciteful and useful learning tool, allows customization of recommendations and impact estimates
 - 4. Shows biggest contributors to household impact
 - a. Over 110 different actions- range from small to large actions and can sort actions based on household priorities, including youth friendly actions
 - b. Touch on 5 household activities- Transportation, Heat, Electricity, Food, Waste
 - ii. Take sustainable actions,
 - 1. Reduction of water use, Community and learning actions
Resiliency category, Emergency Preparedness
 - 2. Possible Barriers
 - a. Accessibility, Affordability, Comfort, Competence
 - b. Platform designed to reduce these barriers and encourage users to take actions
 - iii. Work together with others
 - a. Gamification
 - i. Points- Actions add upon the dashboard and on community or team page
 - 1. Can post photos, info and ideas
 - 2. Page for all of Bloomington
 - b. Connect with resources from the local area
- c. Questions

- i. Can we import data from current tracking devices?- Add as a resource on how to read a utility bill
- ii. Averages or median for country comparisons- Per person average- Typical footprint for a citizen
- iii. Extent to which lifestyle changes and reductions are durable- do they last over time
 1. Upgrades- 1 time action
 2. Habit based actions- improved when there is a good engagement program; create a space where people are holding others accountable and creating a support system
- iv. Will city be primary drive for participation or will there be social change
 1. City purchased a domain
 2. Different cities use it different ways
 - a. Goal is to look at working with groups to facilitate durable engagement, Needs to be pro social engagement
 3. Discuss with other communities on how they have been using it
 - a. Doing different challenges different months. Longer term engagement strategy related to community wide goals
 4. There is a lot of customization that still needs to happen to make it useful for Bloomington residents specifically
- v. Focusing on individual footprint can be very nuanced- wish there was a way to link to metrics to climate action plan
- vi. Curious about the language- climate action site?; CAP looks at systemic solutions beyond individual
 1. Not substitute for dashboard or institutional commitment
 2. More accessible for the general public- more guidance for what actions have the biggest impact
 3. Continue to encourage youth engagement- not as well served by a dashboard
 4. Connect broader goal to individual goals and experiences
- vii. Data analysis- extrapolation of person to whole community
 1. Self-reporting based on % using the site and not using to inform CAP analysis
 2. Tracking of metrics
- viii. How will this info influence local policy bottom up?
 1. Shows community is engaged in wanting to address climate
 2. Can send survey to participating households
 3. Program helps people who are concerned but don't do action/ don't know where to start (target audience)- start the conversation
 - a. Engage with sustainability more meaningfully
- ix. Good idea to keep stream of information on utility companies and what their building and raising their rates etc.- take action/email etc.
- x. Commissioner Comment: Climate crises are issues of class powers
 1. 71% of emissions come from 100 companies
 2. Good to encourage involvement with local politics because climate is a political issue

- 3. Emphasize that lifestyle changes aren't enough
- xi. Glad to see how accessible this is might drive the changes needed to address the issues with corporations

11. Discussion

- a. Housing First Resolution V2
 - i. Written in outline form ATM will be emailed out to committee members involved to be written and presented and voted on in June? Start with continuation/worsening of housing crisis
 - ii. Cite just transition principles
 - iii. Cite relevant areas of housing study that was done by consultants in 2020
 - 1. Heading home report, Affordable living committee
 - iv. Major gaps so far are the housing provider of last resort
 - 1. Who is it?- nonprofits and United Way, Responsibility and challenge for government to take on
 - v. Human centered approach
 - 1. Public accountability, Tracking # of outstanding homeless people in the town rather than new homes built
 - vi. Resolutions
 - 1. Big issue is funding, Previous resolutions were not acted on in the budget, Ideas for funding sources, Recommendations on how to spend funds
 - vii. Area for staff suggestions
 - 1. Need to have staff members at the city accountable for the program, tracking data etc.
 - viii. Nonprofit housing developers for the city to encourage this
 - ix. Economic indicators- improve data collection and tracking
 - 1. Track the right metrics that are human centered
 - x. Environmental damage and repairs needed
 - 1. Environmental impact from homeless
 - 2. Recs on how to mitigate damage/ repair and take restorative actions
 - xi. Questions
 - 1. Zoned for housing but are not developed
 - a. Could show where new housing could go
 - b. Depending on what zones are available indicate how far you can take the action
 - 2. Are we collaborating with other commissions/committees?
 - a. Major city investment in the heading home initiatives
 - b. Dedicated to supporting social service providers
 - c. Construction of new units- but issue has become increasingly severe

12. New Business

- a. BCOS Annual Report timeline, tasks, needs, incl. presentation to council
- b. BCOS Annual Report Discussion
 - i. Dates?
 - 1. Presented to smaller group of council members

2. June would be good to vote- been awhile since BCOS has created a report
3. No set date currently
- ii. Should include summary of the event and activities that BCOS intends to do for the rest of the year
 1. Sections for working groups
 - a. Waste committee
 2. Section on previous things done
- iii. Authoring the report should include full committee
- c. Schedule waste working group meeting for CAP

13. Adjournment