

2023-05-09 BCOS Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - a. Matt Austin - present in person
 - b. Kate-Lyn Edwards - absent
 - c. Matt Flaherty - present in person
 - d. David Maenner - present in person
 - e. Nejla Routsong - present in person
 - f. Nolan Hendon - present in person
 - g. Emma Ferguson - present in person
 - h. Jon Eldon - present in person
 - i. Jessica Davis - absent
 - j. Hannah Gregory - present in person
 - k. Justin Vassel - absent
 - l. Alex Hakes - present in person
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Approved, no objections
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Approved, no objections
5. Public Comment (15-20 minutes, up to 3 minutes per person)
 - a. Don from Environmental Commission - sent out report from the Guardian that provides a model of reducing home/landowners property taxes for implementing environmental mitigation activities -- currently being proposed by multiple municipal councils (unidentified), may be of interest to both Environmental and Sustainability Commissions -- rebate program or other financial incentive may be possible
6. Report from Acting Chair - Working groups 2023 year end goals
 - a. Working groups should put together 2023 year end goals for reporting purposes and bring them by the next meeting
7. Report from Staff Liaison
 - a. Update on vacancies
 - i. 1 vacancy - mayoral appointment
 - ii. 1 vacancy - common council appointment
 - b. BCOS Neighborhood Grant Program - in progress
 - i. There will be 10 awards of \$1,000, will be available online once details are refined -- working with HAND to get the program up and running

1. 10 grants available
2. Coming from ESD
3. BCOS members will be reviewers of proposals
- c. BCOS Grant Program – in progress
- d. Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
 - i. McKinney Climate Fellow will help develop assessment, will help focus climate action plan initiatives
- e. City of Bloomington’s Planning and Transportation Department is launching a Corridor Study of College Avenue and Walnut Street. Visit the [Corridor Study website](#) and [sign-up for email updates](#)
 - i. Trying to revitalize these streets and make them more safe
 - ii. Interest from BCOS in cool corridors for heat management purposes
8. Report from Council Ex-Officio
 - a. 4 of 9 council members re-elected, the rest of the council members are new elects
 - b. Council brought back ordinance 2308 for consideration, unanimously voted down the ordinance
 - c. Also looking to study Atwater and 3rd St in addition to College Avenue/Walnut St corridors
 - i. Studies will be phased, College/Walnut first
 - d. Newly formed committee -- Special Committee of Council Processes
 - i. Focus on/review Title 2, DEI, community engagement strategies
 - ii. Prioritizing board and commission reform
 1. Combining BCOS and Environmental Commission?
 2. Review of Novak report
9. Reports from Commissioners
 - a. Just Transition Working Group
 - i. Exploring 4 different projects
 1. Recommending BCOS action on Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - a. Hoping to vote on it next month
 2. Not recommending BCOS action on fair/free transit
 - a. Obstacles in the way that need addressed first (primarily homelessness crisis)
 - i. Need alternative systems in place, could overwhelm the transit system
 - b. Not a lot of economic obstacles
 3. Met with Nathan Ferreira from BHA to talk about about affordable housing, talked about how BCOS

may help guide just transition initiative and Summit Hill Community Land Trust

4. Tracking unhoused data, developing ideas with relevant agencies and city departments, hope to suggest BCOS action in the future

b. Heat Task Force

- i. With Shawn's new position, will be too confusing to keep HMTF, need to prioritize CRVA for now
- ii. Dissolving HMTF
- iii. CRVA task force absorbing HMTF for now since heat emergency response will be a feature of the CRVA
- iv. Working with Dr. Dana Habeeb to get a "Beat the Heat" program going in Bloomington

c. Waste Management

- i. Earth Keepers is closing business at the end of the month
 1. Many who use Earth Keepers will now be looking for an alternative
 - a. Will be asking Earth Keepers if they could donate/sell compost buckets at a low cost for BCOS pilot initiative
- ii. Developing a program called "Compost Captains"
 1. Food waste would stay in the neighborhood, one neighborhood would accept and compost food waste from other neighbors
- iii. Looking to find a way to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
 1. Wax covered milk cartons not recycled by Republic
 2. Republic accepts glass but doesn't recycle it
 3. Rumpke holding a open house this weekend, WILL recycle wax covered milk cartons
- iv. Citizens academy open up, can learn more about the above during this course
- v. Joseph submitted an RFP, developing food waste processing program at an apartment complex
- vi. Put together a list of question for Rupke/Republic to learn more about their operations
 1. Republic contract/NDA with City

d. New proposed task force on strategic engagement and outreach

- i. Justin will talk about this at next meeting

10. Discussions Not Resolutions

- a. Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (Nejla)

- i. Bloomington could be 10th city in the US to adopt this treaty
 - 1. Addresses not just consumption, but the supply/production of fossil fuels
- ii. Did initial outreach, found that it aligns with the City's sustainability and economic goals
 - 1. Need clarification on if Bloomington extracts/produces/processes/refines fossil fuels
- iii. Drafted a resolution for the mayor's office to endorse
 - 1. Separate letter where BCOS asks the mayor to endorse resolution
 - 2. Would like help with wording/review of Bloomington-specific sections in resolution
 - 3. May need to better address how actions in the resolution can be more specific to Bloomington to have more of an impact so it's not just symbolic

- 11. Resolutions for First Reading
- 12. Resolutions for Second Reading
- 13. New Business
- 14. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 13, 2023 at 6 pm