



# City of Bloomington Common Council

## Legislative Packet

Committee of the Whole

31 March 2010

Office of the Common Council  
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**City of Bloomington  
Indiana**



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**To: Council Members**  
**From: Council Office**  
**Re: Weekly Packet Memo**  
**Date: 26 March 2010**

**Packet-Related Material**

**Memo**

**Agenda**

**Calendar**

**Notices and Agendas:**

Council Rules Committee Meeting, Tuesday, 30 March, Noon, Council Library

**Legislation for Discussion at the Committee of the Whole:**

- **Res 10-03 Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force**  
- Memo to Council from Councilmembers Rollo and Ruff

*Contacts: Dave Rollo at 349-3409 or 339-7916 or [rollod@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:rollod@bloomington.in.gov)  
Andy Ruff at 349-3409 or 334-2160 or [ruffa@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:ruffa@bloomington.in.gov)*

**Memo**

**One Item for Discussion at the Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, 31 March 2010**

There is one item for discussion next Wednesday – a resolution creating a joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force.

## First Readings:

### **Res 10-03 (Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force)**

Res 10-03 is sponsored by Councilmembers Rollo and Ruff and creates a joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force. The aim of the task force is to bring together residents, local government and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to create a community-based approach to deer in urban and suburban environments. Monroe County Commissioner, Iris Kiesling, is the County sponsor of this initiative.

The resolution points out that, as the number of deer in urban environments grow, so too do deer-human interactions. Some members of the community are concerned with the number of deer in urban and suburban areas. Specifically, these residents are concerned about deer-vehicle collisions, tick-borne illnesses, damage to plants and gardens and general safety. These residents have called upon local government to address the issue.

As the IDNR has jurisdiction over the management of the State's deer, the function of this task force will be to work with IDNR to explore ways to address deer-human conflicts and to develop possible approaches to mitigate such conflict. This partnership follows a community-based management model that calls for collaboration of public wildlife management specialists, local government, interest groups and residents. The approach gives many stakeholders a voice in the process and has been documented to be a successful way to address human-wildlife conflicts.<sup>1</sup>

The role of the task for will be to explore ways to address deer-human conflicts and to solicit community feedback on different possible approaches. The resolution directs that, "public education shall be part of the Task Force's charge." Indeed, the IDNR agrees that an important role of this group will be to educate the community about the nature of deer in urban areas and possible approaches to minimize conflict.

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<sup>1</sup> See, eg., Raik, et. al., *Capacity Building: A New Focus for Collaborative Approaches to Community-Based Suburban Deer Management?*, Wildlife Society Bulletin: Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 525-530(2006); Lauber, et. al, *Learning by Doing: Deer Management in Urban and Suburban Communities*, Cornell Extension, HDRU Series No 04-02 (2004). Schusler, et. al, *Community-based Comanagement: Sharing Responsibility When Tolerance for Wildlife is Exceeded*, Human Dimensions of Wildlife 5:3, 34-49 (2000); Decker, et. al., *Community-Based Deer Management: A Practitioner's Guide*, Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Research and Outreach Cooperative(2004); Chase, et. al, *Innovations in Stakeholder Involvement: What's the Next Step?* Wildlife Society Bulletin 28(1):208-217 (2000).

The Task Force will be composed of 11 members. One member of the City Council, one County Commissioner, a representative from the IDNR and the Director of the City's Animal Care and Control shall serve on the Task Force. Additionally, the Mayor will have one appointment, the City Council and County Commissioners shall each make three appointments. It is important that a wide range of perspectives be represented on the Task Force. The resolution states that membership should reflect a wide variety of community representatives and expertise. Preference should be given to: concerned residents, those with a background in biology (wildlife and/or ecology), veterinarians, gardeners, animal welfare representatives and law enforcement. The resolution further states that members should be open-minded and capable of working alongside members with differing opinions.

The Task Force will draft advisory recommendations for local government and the IDNR and will sunset after it issues its recommendations. As the memo from the sponsors points out, they hope that the work of the group will be swift and efficient, but the length of time required for the group to put together advisory recommendations will really depend on how much public input it receives.

You can learn more about the biology and habits of white-tailed deer and their interactions with humans in urban and suburban landscapes at Cornell Cooperative Extension's: [\*Reducing Deer Damage to Home Gardens and Landscape Plantings\*](#) .

**NOTICE AND AGENDA  
BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
7:30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
SHOWERS CENTER, 401 N. MORTON ST.**

**Chair: Steve Volan**

1. Resolution 10-03 Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force

Sponsors: Councilmember Rollo and Councilmember Ruff



**City of Bloomington  
Office of the Common Council**

To: Council Members  
From: Council Office  
Re: Calendar for the Week of March 29-April 3, 2010

**Monday, March 29, 2010**

4:00 pm Council for Community Accessibility, McCloskey  
5:30 pm Community Orchard Project – Winslow Woods Park, McCloskey

*Happy Birthday Councilmember Mike Satterfield!*

**Tuesday, March 30, 2010**

12:00 noon Common Council Rules Committee, Council Library  
5:30 pm Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation, Public Transportation Center, 130 W Grimes Lane  
5:30 pm Board of Public Works, Council Chambers

**Wednesday, March 31, 2010**

5:00 pm 17<sup>th</sup> and Arlington Roundabout Meeting, Council Chambers  
7:30 pm Common Council Committee of the Whole, Council Chambers

**Thursday, April 1, 2010**

4:00 pm Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Council, McCloskey  
5:30 pm Commission on the Status of Women, McCloskey

**Friday, April 2, 2010**

*City Holiday – Offices Closed*

**Saturday, April 3, 2010**

8:00 am Bloomington Community Farmers' Market, Showers Common, 401 N. Morton

*Posted and Distributed: Friday, March 26, 2010*



City of Bloomington  
Office of the Common Council

# MEETING NOTICE

## Common Council Rules Committee

**Tuesday, 30 March 2010**  
**Noon**  
**Council Library**  
**(City Hall, 401 N. Morton, Suite 110)**

Because a quorum of the Common Council may be present, this meeting may constitute a meeting of the Council as well as of this Committee under Indiana Open Door Law. Therefore, this provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

Posted: Friday, March 26, 2010

## **RESOLUTION 10-03**

### **Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force**

- WHEREAS, Many community members are concerned about the number of deer in urban areas; and
- WHEREAS, Some residents are concerned about deer-vehicle collisions, tick-borne illnesses, damage to yard plantings and vegetable gardens and general safety; and
- WHEREAS, Urban environments have created excellent deer habitat and many citizens, through the planting of ornamental and/or vegetable gardens, provide an abundance of food and shelter; and
- WHEREAS, As the number of deer in urban environments grow, so too do deer-human conflicts; and
- WHEREAS, Urban areas can provide substantial carrying capacity for deer and the biological carrying capacity of some urban areas can approach 100 deer per square mile; and
- WHEREAS, Instead of biological carrying capacity, the community must decide how many deer is acceptable – the social carrying capacity; and
- WHEREAS, Many Bloomington and Monroe County residents have contacted elected officials of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County, requesting measures to control the urban deer population; and
- WHEREAS, The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has exclusive jurisdiction over the management of deer per Indiana Code §14-22; and
- WHEREAS, A prudent approach to deer-human co-existence involves a partnership between the citizens, local government and the IDNR; and
- WHEREAS, There is a significant lack of community knowledge about the complexity of addressing deer in urban environments; and
- WHEREAS, Understanding the nature of the deer issue and exploring approaches is in the interest of the citizens of the City of Bloomington and Monroe County;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force shall be established to explore ways to address deer-human conflicts and to solicit community feedback on different possible approaches. Public education shall be part of the Task Force's charge.

- (1) Members. The Task Force shall be composed of eleven members.
- (2) Appointments. One member shall be appointed by the Mayor, three shall be appointed by the Bloomington Common Council and three shall be appointed by Monroe County Commissioners. One member of the Bloomington Common Council, one Monroe County Commissioner, a representative from the IDNR and the Director of the City of Bloomington's Animal Care and Control shall also serve on the Task Force.
- (3) Qualifications. Members shall include a variety of community representatives and expertise. Preference for Task Force members shall be given to: concerned residents, those with a background in biology (wildlife and/or ecology), veterinarians, gardeners, animal welfare representatives and law enforcement. Members should be open-minded and capable of working alongside members with differing opinions.

SECTION 2. The Task Force shall draft advisory recommendations for review by the City, County and the IDNR.

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall sunset once it submits its recommendations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ISABEL PIEDMONT-SMITH, President  
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
REGINA MOORE, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

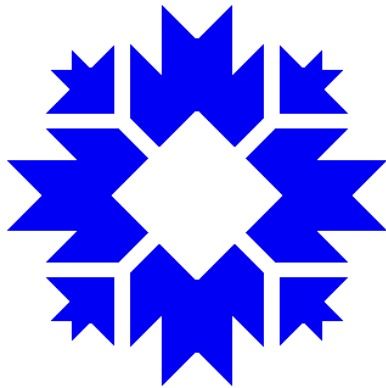
\_\_\_\_\_  
REGINA MOORE, Clerk  
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MARK KRUZAN, Mayor  
City of Bloomington

### **SYNOPSIS**

This is a City of Bloomington-Monroe County resolution creating a citizen-based Deer Task Force. The resolution is sponsored by Councilmembers Dave Rollo and Andy Ruff of the Bloomington Common Council and Monroe County Commissioner Iris Kiesling. The legislation acknowledges that some in the community have called upon City and County governments to address the issue of deer in urban areas. As the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has jurisdiction over the management of deer, this resolution calls for the Task Force to work closely with the IDNR in exploring options. The Task Force will engage in public education and will draft advisory recommendations for review by IDNR and local government. The group shall sunset once it issues its recommendations.



**City of Bloomington  
Office of the Common Council**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Councilmembers  
From: Dave Rollo, Councilmember, District IV  
Andy Ruff, Councilmember, At-Large  
Date: 26 March 2010  
Re: Resolution 10-03: Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County  
Deer Task Force

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Attached find Resolution 10-03: Creating a Joint City of Bloomington-Monroe County Deer Task Force. The aim of this Task Force is to bring together residents, local government and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to create a community-based approach to deer in urban and suburban environments. We are sponsoring this initiative along with Monroe County Commissioner Kiesling.

The phenomenon of urban deer is a curious result of human action. As one of Indiana's oldest native wildlife, white-tailed deer were actually threatened with extinction through hunting and habitat destruction at one time. However, since the mid-1900s, their numbers have dramatically rebounded due to the effort to repopulate the State with deer, the elimination of most non-human predators and the great adaptability of deer.<sup>1</sup> Now, it is not uncommon to find deer in Bloomington backyards.

As deer adapt to the human landscape, nature and culture are mixing in new ways. Most notably, humans and deer are interacting more frequently. Some residents view this increased interaction as favorable, others view it as problematic. The latter are concerned with issues such as deer damage to landscapes and gardens, with tick-borne illnesses (such as Lyme disease), threats to pets and deer-vehicle collisions. Numerous residents have requested that local government respond to the presence of deer in and around areas of human settlement.

The management of all deer throughout the State of Indiana is the exclusive jurisdiction of the IDNR. However, residents, local government and other stakeholders can work with the IDNR to come up with an approach that meets the unique needs and values of the local community.<sup>2</sup> The Task Force will work with IDNR to explore ways to address deer-human

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<sup>1</sup> Indiana Department of Natural Resources, *Managing Deer Damage*, <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/2718.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Communities all over the country have been grappling with how to best deal with human-deer conflicts. And numerous community deer groups/task forces have emerged over the last number of years. A few examples include: Chapel Hill, NC; Iowa City, IA; St. Louis, MO; Golden Valley, MN; Amherst, NY; Oxford, MS; Arcadia,

conflicts and will solicit community feedback on different possible approaches. An important role of this group will be to educate the community about the nature of deer in urban areas and possible approaches to minimize conflicts. This partnership follows a community-based management model that calls for collaboration of public wildlife management specialists, local government, interest groups and residents. The approach gives many stakeholders a voice in the process and has been documented to be a successful way to address human-wildlife conflicts.<sup>3</sup>

The Task Force will be composed of 11 members. One member of the City Council, one County Commissioner, a representative from the IDNR and the Director of the City's Animal Care and Control shall serve on the Task Force. Additionally, the Mayor will have one appointment, the City Council and County Commissioners shall each make three appointments.

It is important that a wide range of perspectives be represented on the Task Force. The resolution calls for representation from: concerned residents, those with a background in biology (wildlife and/or ecology), veterinarians, gardeners, animal welfare representatives and law enforcement. The resolution further states that members should be open-minded and capable of working alongside those of differing opinions.

The Task Force will issue its non-binding recommendations to local government and the IDNR and will sunset once it has made its recommendations. We aim for the work of the Task Force to be swift and efficient, but the length of time required for it to issue recommendations will hinge on the public input it receives.

Beyond a doubt, the people of this community are compassionate and have a deep appreciation for nature. The question the Task Force must begin to address is how the community should best mitigate human-deer conflicts. We will not reach perfect community-wide unanimity. However, we can work to better understand the issue and to create a community conversation.

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California; Rapid City, SD; Rochester Hills, MI; Block Island, RI. States including Illinois, New York; Maryland and Montana have formed similar State-wide task forces.

<sup>3</sup> See, eg., Raik, et. al., *Capacity Building: A New Focus for Collaborative Approaches to Community-Based Suburban Deer Management?*, Wildlife Society Bulletin: Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 525-530(2006); Lauber, et. al, *Learning by Doing: Deer Management in Urban and Suburban Communities*, Cornell Extension, HDRU Series No 04-02 (2004). Schusler, et. al, *Community-based Comanagement: Sharing Responsibility When Tolerance for Wildlife is Exceeded*, Human Dimensions of Wildlife 5:3, 34-49 (2000); Decker, et. al., *Community-Based Deer Management: A Practitioner's Guide*, Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Research and Outreach Cooperative (2004); Chase, et. al, *Innovations in Stakeholder Involvement: What's the Next Step?* Wildlife Society Bulletin 28(1):208-217 (2000).