

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 7:35 pm with Council President Isabel Piedmont-Smith presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Roll Call: Piedmont-Smith, Ruff, Satterfield, Mayer, Rollo, Sturbaum, Volan, Sandberg, Wisler

ROLL CALL

Council President Piedmont-Smith gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Regular Session from December 2, 2009 be approved. Councilmember Rollo moved to include his comments in full from that meeting in addition to the summary currently in the minutes. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tim Mayer honored the passing of John Byers, a local architect, with a listing of his various deeds and service to the community. Mayer said that Byers was a pioneer in environmentally friendly buildings.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Mike Satterfield also said he was saddened by the passing of John Byers and that he would be missed.

Dave Rollo sent get well wishes to City Clerk, Regina Moore who underwent surgery.

Rollo also commented on what he referred to as the horrible decision made by the Supreme Court on campaign refinancing. He said it would radically and substantially expand corporate spending in the political process, which was a change that overruled long standing precedence. Rollo's final comment was about a recent study from the Natural Resources Defense Council which found that "location efficient neighborhood design," a concept this Council and others in the community endorsed, could stem the rate of foreclosures. He said the study found that this type of new urbanism saved a significant amount of energy that could reduce the costs of home ownership enough to mitigate the rate of home foreclosure.

Andy Ruff shared a press release from Wellpoint, one of the largest U.S. health insurance companies that described their 4th quarter earnings and increase in the value of shares, despite their decline in membership enrollment. Ruff said there were fewer people insured, the economy was down, yet their profits were up. He added that insurance companies did a great job of providing earnings to their executives and shareholders, but a poor job of providing access to health care, and questioned whether this was the system we really wanted in place. Ruff also spoke about the "don't ask don't tell policy" in the military and the public officials who have spoken against it along with the need to repeal it. He added that the country would be better served without it. On another note, Ruff mentioned that NASA reported that the last decade was the warmest decade on record, which demonstrated that global warming was on the rise.

President Piedmont-Smith welcomed the Boy Scouts in the audience.

Bet Savitch, from the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, announced the 2010 Be More Awards to recognize community volunteers and their service. She added that nominations could be submitted online this year.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Heather Reynolds, Andrea Need and Erin Shane, of the Environmental Commission, brought the Baseline Survey of County-wide Greenspace Inventory. Their intern Trevor Hagadorn, Indiana University graduate

student in SPEA, presented the report.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES
(cont'd)

The report reviewed the economic, social and environmental benefits of greenspace. Hagadorn said the criteria for defining greenspace required that all land containing greenspace must possess a permeable surface, must be larger than one acre, and must be more than ten feet from any man made structure or development. Aerial imagery was used to measure greenspace and GIS software was used to quantify the greenspace.

Hagadorn said that while past reports focused on city jurisdiction, this was the first study to examine county greenspace. He said the current report served as a necessary first step to monitoring county-wide greenspace trends and providing information on greenspace quality.

Volan asked about the time period the snapshot represented. He also asked about why the eastern part of the county was less developed. Hagadorn said because of the topography and because it was more protected by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Rollo asked if there would be more refinements in the future to determine the environmental diversity present in this area. He said determining continuity seemed like the first step to finding migration corridors, which was very important for wildlife. Hagadorn said that refining the continuity index would be one of the next steps.

Piedmont-Smith said this report would be on the city website.

Ruff thanked the Environmental Commission for their excellent work and acknowledged the work of Professor Heather Reynolds for her nine years on the Environmental Commission and her commitment to the community. He announced that she would be leaving the Environmental Commission and thanked her for her great contributions.

John Keyes, Monroe County Census Recruiter, talked about the low turnout for census-taker testing. He described the negative consequences of an inaccurate census count. He urged the Council to help disseminate the need for census takers.

PUBLIC INPUT

Volan said he shared the concern of an undercount, especially as it related to the student count. He asked about the numbers already recruited. Keyes said he needed at least 400 additional workers and that the work would last 4-6 weeks, beginning in mid-April.

Buff Brown presented information on the intersection of Sare Road and Rogers Road, which he said was slated for construction. He said this intersection was the gateway to the southeast portion of the county and this intersection would be the key if indeed the city wanted to open up the Lake Monroe watershed and greenspace to development. He presented an alternative plan to the City's roundabout proposal. He said it would be safer for pedestrians and bikers by reducing vehicle miles traveled and emphasizing and incentivizing other modes of travel, which he said was called for in the growth policies plan.

Gabe Rivera said he was the victim of a hate crime two weeks ago in People's Park. He said neither the police nor the event sponsor, Decarcerate Monroe County had been responsive to his calls for assistance. He also talked about ending drug prohibition.

Marc Haggerty announced that Howard Zinn died the previous week, and said that Howard recorded history in a different way that was more anthropological. He also spoke about his own election reform efforts of the 1980s and the need for on-going political dialogue.

PUBLIC INPUT (con't)

James McNamara, Executive Director of Pets Alive, announced that Mayor Kruzan declared February to be Spay/Neuter Month. He reminded the public that spring was a particularly tragic time when cats hit their first heat and produce literally thousands of stray cats.

It was moved and seconded that the following persons be appointed or reappointed to the following boards and commissions.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Animal Control Commission	Shirley Davies
Bike and Pedestrian Commission	Jim Rosenbarger
Board of Zoning Appeals	Patrick Murray
Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs	Gracia Valliant
Commission on the Status of Black Males	Beverly Smith
Commission on the Status of Women	Lorraine Farrell
	Dorothy Granger
	Ashley McDonald
Community and Family Resources Commission	Hans Huffman
	Danielle Sorden
Environmental Commission	Jacqui Bauer
	Phaedra Pezzullo
	Michael Tosick
	Diane Henshel
Housing Trust Fund	Jenn Marcum
Human Rights Commission	Emily Bowman
	Valeri Haughton
	Byron Bangert
Public Transportation Corporation	Alex Cartwright
Redevelopment Commission	David Walter
	Michael Szakaly
Telecommunications Council	Jesse Stryker
	Suzann Owen
	Eric Ost
Utilities Service Board	Pedro Roman
	Jeff Ehman
	Sam Frank

The motions were approved by voice votes.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 10-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Deputy Clerk Wanzer read the legislation and synopsis, and gave the Do Pass recommendation of 8-0-1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 10-04 be adopted.

Ordinance 10-04 TO AMEND CHAPTER 15.26 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED "NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM" (Amending Schedule J-1 in Order to Identify Traffic Calming to be installed at the intersection of South Mitchell Street, Southdowns Drive and Circle Drive)

Justin Wykoff, from City Engineering, described the traffic calming that involved re-engineering the intersection of four streets to make the site lines more visible and readjusting the stop signs so that they were aligned better with the streets.

Rollo asked about the addition of a sidewalk over the grass peninsula and asked about the cost. Wykoff said the cost would be negligible and that his department would like to move forward with that change. Rollo and Wykoff also confirmed that this had been vetted by safety officials and that the new plan would accommodate fire trucks and school bus turning radii.

Wisler asked about the signage and whether the streets would be easily identified since the orientation of streets could be confusing. Wykoff said that because it was now a controlled stop, it would be easier to recognize the orientation of the signage and the placement would make it clearer.

Sturbaum asked about action that would be needed to include sidewalks. Wykoff said there wasn't any action required and that they would be included.

Piedmont-Smith asked about the installation of pedestrian crosswalks. Wykoff said that where a sidewalk existed on each side of the street, there would be a crosswalk. She also asked, and Wykoff confirmed, that the speed limit sign would be relocated with the installation of a new stop sign.

There was no public comment.

Rollo explained that the SoMax neighborhood had numerous meetings about this plan and that it had been vetted very well. He said the intent was not to limit traffic moving through the neighborhood, but to reduce the speed and the potential hazard around the curve. In addition to the neighborhood association, this plan had been discussed by the Traffic Commission and Public Works. He thanked Justin Wykoff for his support and assistance.

Volan said that Bloomington streets were counterintuitive. He said this plan was reasonable and that he would support it.

Sturbaum said the process for traffic calming and changes to street construction had been improving each year with citizen input and the administration and neighborhoods working together.

Ruff noted that his daughter's grandparents lived at that intersection and said he used this area frequently and therefore was very familiar with the area.

Ordinance 10-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no legislation for introduction at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING

Gabe Rivera talked about the strange death of Vince Foster and speculated whether it was connected to the siege at Waco, Texas.

PUBLIC INPUT

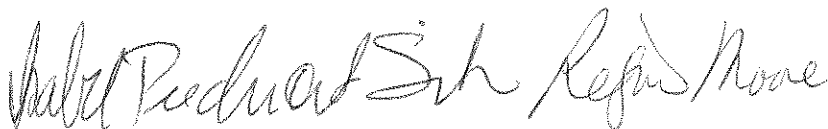
Marc Haggerty said the traffic calming devices installed in his neighborhood were working well. It had eliminated the high speed traffic and turned the neighborhood from a cut-through neighborhood to one that was more pleasant with a nice character. He said he appreciated the installation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Isabel Piedmont-Smith PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington