

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
March 7, 2007

Roll Call: Wisler, Diekhoff, Ruff, Sandberg, Rollo, Sturbaum, Volan, Sabbagh, Mayer

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

There were no minutes to be approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan Sandberg thanked the many council members, Mayor, and community members whom attended the 22nd Annual Women's History Month luncheon earlier in the day. She said County Commissioner Iris Kiesling received a Lifetime Achievement Award, City Clerk Regina Moore was honored with the 2007 Woman of the Year Award, and the keynote speech was given by Dr. Gloria Randall Scott, the first African-American to serve as National President of Girl Scouts USA. Sandberg also noted that the Commission on the Status of Women, Mayor Mark Kruzan, Clerk Regina Moore and she would host a "Women in Government Reception" to honor women who are serving in city government and on city boards and commissions. The reception was to be held on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at City Hall, and Sandberg invited all to attend.

REPORTS:
COUNCILMEMBERS

Chris Sturbaum noted that Big Brothers Big Sisters was pleased to be part of the day's luncheon and congratulated award winners.

Tim Mayer congratulated Iris Kiesling and Regina Moore on their awards and said the luncheon was a very nice event.

Brad Wisler also congratulated Clerk Moore on her award. He said he was very happy that Anthem Insurance and the Bloomington Hospital were able to reach an agreement recently on coverage. He concluded his report by wishing the IU Basketball team and Coach Kelvin Sampson luck in the upcoming tournament.

Mike Diekhoff congratulated Iris Kiesling and Regina Moore on their awards.

David Sabbagh congratulated Kiesling and Moore. He told of a loss in the community with the passing of Mary Oliver and Iliya Harik, and offered condolences to the family of these wonderful citizens. He concluded by saying how delighted he was on the selection of Michael McRobbie as the new president of Indiana University.

Andy Ruff said that Iliya Harik was an international scholar, born on an orchard farm in Lebanon, and was a treasure of our community. He said that Harik was an amazing colorful character in Bloomington and in the international community as well, and said we should appreciate and celebrate his life.

Steve Volan echoed Sabbagh and Ruff's comments on the passing of Harik and Oliver. He also wished McRobbie well in being the next great leader for IU. He congratulated Kiesling and Moore, saying that he was proud to have served with them and looked forward to learning more from them. He noted a theme in mentioning Sister Cities and Big Brothers Big Sisters, and thought that the combination might be a Big Sister Cities of America. He would nominate Portland, Oregon and New Orleans to be associated with Bloomington in that program. He

thanked Buff Brown and several officials in Portland, Oregon for hosting his visit, adding that he would be bringing many reports to the council about what he learned there. He noted many connections between Bloomington and New Orleans, and read portions of a letter from a former Bloomington resident who now lives in New Orleans. It outlined the projected land loss in Louisiana that would result in an ecological disaster as wetlands, ports, coastlines, and shrimp beds disappear. He noted that he would be putting this information on his website, www.volcan.org, and asked citizens to keep the urgency of the letter in mind.

Dave Rollo congratulated Clerk Moore and Commissioner Kiesling for their awards.

There were no reports from the Mayor at this meeting.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

There were no council committee reports at this meeting.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Miah Michaelson, Executive Director of the Bloomington Area Arts Council, informed the Council of the *One Book One Bloomington* program the BAAC had sponsored for the last several years. She noted the BAAC was partnering with the National Endowment for the Arts BIG READ program this year, and was one of 75 communities across the nation in the program. She noted that Bloomington was the only community that selected its one book, *Fahrenheit 451*, and would be holding about 25 events surrounding the reading and discussion of the book. She said that bookmarks, CD's, and Reader's Guides had been provided with this partnership and that free books would be available through this grant, also.

PUBLIC INPUT

There were no appointments at this meeting.

BOARD AND COMMISSION
APPOINTMENTS
LEGISLATION FOR SECOND
READING

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 6-0-2. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 07-01 be adopted.

Resolution 07-01 To Approve
Recommendations of the Mayor for
Distribution of Community
Development Block Grant (CDBG)
Funds for 2007

Lisa Abbott, Director of the Housing and Neighborhood Development Department, presented the Mayor's recommendations for the distribution of a federal grant from Housing and Urban Development. She said the City of Bloomington qualifies for these funds by meeting certain criteria. She outlined the department's assistance programs funded by this grant, which touched individual homes, neighborhoods, historic preservation and protection, and helping social services provide better services for their clients, our own citizens. She noted that funds have decreased by 32% over the last five years, and thanked the Citizen's Advisory Committee, her staff, and especially Tim Mayer for their work in allocating these funds.

Sturbaum asked how the Evergreen houses were coming along, to which Abbott gave a short report on the construction status. She said that one home might be available for occupancy by the end of May.

Rollo asked if the CDBG funds had ever been this low. Abbott said since she came to the department in December of 1998, she didn't recall the grant funding to be lower. Prompted by a question from Rollo, Abbott said that she wasn't aware of a mechanism to track private contributions to see if the private contributions were making up for shortfalls.

Rollo asked Abbott if the process of funding was satisfactory to her. Abbott noted that physical improvement requests needed to meet the

Resolution 07-01 (cont'd)

recently revised City's *Consolidated Plan* and federal guidelines. She also noted that the social service agency allocation process had been revised several years ago to include program need, numbers of clients served, program budget and a discretionary segment. She said that the process is working, but that attention should now be turned to what the process and priorities would be in the coming times of seriously diminished funding. She added that as the federal funding had been reduced, the Mayor and Council had added funds to the Jack Hopkins Social Services Funding program, and thanked them for the additions.

Mayer stressed the Citizen's Advisory Council was a bi-partisan citizen group. He noted that the deliberations and process was fair and even handed, and increased demands for food, housing, and other essentials made the choices and allocation decisions very difficult. He noted that social service agencies and the United Way had reported that they had difficulties in meeting their goals this year.

Sandberg asked when the next year's funding allocations would be known. Abbott said that the allocations for 2007-2008 were not yet announced, but she guessed that 2008-2009 funds would be similar amounts. She said that she hoped that the 110th Congress would restore some CDBG funding for future years.

Wisler asked what would happen if the federal funding amount was less than expected, to which Abbott noted the CAC had planned that any increases or decreases in funding would be distributed evenly across the programs.

Wisler asked about the nature of the Emergency Home Repair and Owner Occupied Rehabilitation programs' significant increase over last year's funding. Abbott said there was a waiting list for these services. She noted the programs were supplemented with other money and the funding was also being reduced this year. She said that she hoped the programs would serve similar numbers of people with this arrangement. She noted the two programs were essential to the safety of citizens. Abbott stated that Emergency Home Repair is essential in order to make sure people are not in an unsafe situation.

Abbott stated the importance of HAND's Citizens' Academy and explained how it worked. She stated that Bloomington is wonderful because the city allocates the full amount of funds to social services that is allowable, when a lot of other cities do not.

Mayer thanked everyone involved for their work.

Resolution 07-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis. Clerk Moore read the legislation and synopsis, giving the Committee Do-Pass Recommendation of 7-0-1. It was moved and seconded that Ordinance 07-03 be adopted.

City Attorney Tricia Bernens was asked to speak by President Rollo. She stated Ordinance 07-03 proposed amendments to Title 8, Historic Preservation, and to Title 17, Construction Regulations. She stated the primary purpose of these amendments was to parallel and implement changes to demolition delay that were made in the UDO. She said they put in more penalties for any violation against Title 8 to reflect high fines, specific enforcement authority, and have an added provision in Title 8 to formally adopt the historic survey upon which the demolition regulations are based upon.

Ordinance 07-03 To Amend Title 8 "Historic Preservation and Protection" and Title 17 "Construction Regulations" of the Bloomington Municipal Code – Re: To Implement Revisions to the Demolition Delay Ordinance, Including Enforcement Provisions, as Provided by the Bloomington Unified Development Ordinance and Codifying the Adoption of the 2001 City of Bloomington Survey of Historic Sites and Structures

Sturbaum stated his father and he bought a house a block from his house, and they sold it to someone who had plans to partially demolish it and restore the other half. He said the Historic Commission came in and approved the process but the project did not follow its commitment to the Historic Commission as it should have, and in the end the whole house was demolished without any consequences. He stated there were flaws in the way the process worked before, and this ordinance fixes the holes in that ordinance. Sturbaum said with this ordinance there are binding legal commitments and it takes care of the flaws in the previous ordinance.

Bernens agreed with Sturbaum that the new ordinance fixes the holes in the previous ordinance, so now people must uphold their commitments.

Council members thanked Bernens for all her hard work.

Ordinance 07-03 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0.

There was no legislation for first reading at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST
READING

There were no comments from the dozen or so members of the public that attended this meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.


ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council



Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington