

In the Council Chambers of the Showers City Hall on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at 7:30 pm with Council President Dave Rollo presiding over a Regular Session of the Common Council.

COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION
APRIL 18, 2007

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

ROLL CALL

Council President Rollo gave the Agenda Summation

AGENDA SUMMATION

The minutes of March 7, 2007 and April 4, 2007 were approved by a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REPORTS:

Brad Wisler thanked community members who came out to support the Homeward Bound Walk and was happy so much money was raised for an important cause.

COUNCILMEMBERS

Mike Diekhoff encouraged folks to act responsibly on the upcoming Little 500 weekend.

David Sabbagh said he was happy the Homeward Bound Walk raised money to fight homelessness and said he was always encouraged when the community came together for the collective good. He also stated that Volunteers in Medicine would open on April 23, 2007 at 333 East Miller drive in Bloomington. He said the clinic would provide quality health care at no charge to individuals in Monroe and Owen counties who did not have health insurance.

Steve Volan talked about the tragic event that occurred at Virginia Tech where 32 students were murdered. He said everyone around the country was mourning. Volan announced his participation in a special event on May 11th at 8:00pm called 'Dancing with the Celebrities' which would take place at the Buskirk Chumley Theater and would raise funds for several charities.

Andy Ruff noted the tragedy at Virginia Tech and added that thoughts and prayers were with all people who were affected by the tragedy. He also announced the passing of Jim Jontz who was an Indiana Congressman in the 1990's, a great friend of labor, social justice, and a champion for the environment.

Susan Sandberg announced that Eben Foder, author of "Better Not Bigger: How to Take Control of Urban Growth and Improve Your Community" would be speaking at the Monroe County Library on April 19, 2007 and encouraged citizens to come.

Chris Sturbaum stated that it was important to follow the guidelines of the UDO, he was afraid that if the Plan Commission approved the petition for "The Village at 10th and College" plan they would be setting the precedent of making exceptions to the UDO. He stated the first hearing would be May 7th and the public was welcome.

Tim Mayer, noting that the Little 500 race was Saturday, encouraged everyone to have a safe and responsible weekend.

Dave Rollo read the following statement:

Statement of the City of Bloomington Common Council on the Proposed Visit by the Ku Klux Klan Endorsed by All Nine Council Members and the City Clerk and Read by the Council President at the Council's Regular Session on April 18, 2007:

Most of our community is now aware that the Ku Klux Klan has expressed its intent to march in Bloomington.

We are unanimous in our view that their group, their beliefs, and the means they use to express them are ignorant, hate-filled and reprehensible.

Comments from Council Members
(cont'd)

They say that they'll come unannounced, and it is likely that they will appear in a busy area of our downtown. Since they have chosen not to apply for a permit, they will not be afforded a designated parade area. Their aim is to attract attention to themselves and to try to elicit a reaction from our community in an effort to attract media. We should be mindful of their objective as we decide what our course of action will be, as individuals and as a community.

We fully condemn the KKK's hate speech. It elicits many emotions, but if we react in a confrontational way, we risk falling victim to the type of manipulation and exposure that the KKK wishes to achieve. A public spectacle is what they hope to create, and what we need to avoid. The greatest threat to the Klan's immediate goal is that they are ignored. This must be our united response.

That is not to say at all that we remain silent or complacent on matters of bigotry and racism. Ultimately, the best defense against bigotry and hate is to reaffirm our dedication to equality and to celebrate our diversity. The KKK's presence should remind us to re-double our efforts to fulfill Dr. King's vision of social justice and harmony.

Let us all do what we can to promote universal respect and caring for *all* members of our community. Volunteer time or contribute to an organization that is dedicated to helping others. This is how a massive good can come from the sad and pathetic actions of a hateful few.

Rollo announced vacancies on the following Boards and Commissions: Arts Commission, BDU Advisory Committee, Community and Family Resources, Historic Preservation Commission, Housing Trust Fund Board of Directors, Traffic Commission, Commission on the Status of Black Males, and Urban Enterprise Association.

Department of Parks and Recreation Urban Forester Lee Huss invited citizens to the Arbor Day celebration on April 27, 2007. He said it would be held in front of the Banneker Community Center and would include planting a tree. He then read the Mayor's proclamation naming that day as Arbor Day in the Tree City.

MAYOR and CITY OFFICES

Director of Housing and Neighborhood Development Lisa Abbott invited the citizens to the "Be Bloomington" Downtown Cleanup Day on May 1, 2007.

Environmental Commission members Phaedra Pezzullo and Heather Reynolds came to the council meeting to inform the council on natural landscaping. Pezzullo stated the Commission's view that natural landscaping was a key component to the Mayor's climate protection agreement and would help reduce global green house gasses. Pezzullo also stated that natural landscaping would allow Bloomington to be a more sustainable community. She announced that the EC's service corps intern, Becky Barrick, who would be graduating from IU with an Environmental Science degree, would present more extensive information on natural landscaping.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Barrick stated there were students from Indiana University who collected data on natural landscaping and presented a brochure to the EC. She said that natural landscaping preserved biodiversity through establishing native landscaping in people's back yards. She said the goal of the project is to create a "how-to" guide along with the already developed natural landscaping literature that HAND has created. She then showed and explained the brochure they created on Natural Landscaping.

Mayer thanked the EC for the presentation. He said that some folks find animals such as raccoons disturbing and asked how to keep these them away from natural landscaping.

Barrick said animals that people consider pests come around when there is garbage left out, and so encouraged Bloomington residents to take care with that.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES (cont'd)

Rollo stated that people should keep compost in a closed container to prevent it from attracting animals.

Volan asked about an EC blog that would be created. Barrick said she would not be involved since she would be graduating in May, but noted other communities had sponsored blogs and it had proven to be a good resource for community members to discuss natural landscaping.

Volan stated that he believed a blog was a great idea and encouraged the EC to start one in the future.

Ruff asked about the affordability of lots with natural landscaping. Barrick said that folks would not spend money on pesticides and would be using native plants, and that would actually save money. She also said people could phase in native landscaping to cut down costs.

Rollo thanked the EC for all their hard work.

HAND Director Lisa Abbott said she was excited about the work the EC has done. She stated that the HAND department fields a lot of questions about natural landscaping and this work would help provide additional information. She stated HAND had received so many questions that they decided to create and distribute an instruction manual on natural landscaping. She was happy that HAND had information on the website about natural landscaping which actually shows people how to do natural landscaping. She also encouraged people to trade native plants which helps make natural landscaping affordable. She encouraged citizens to call HAND for questions and feedback. Abbott noted that this was not an invitation to ignore lawn maintenance and that tickets would be issued for neglect.

Citizen Gene Moncel said he was appalled that the Ku Klux Klan was going to be in Bloomington. He said that it was an unfortunate situation when people lived in fear and that our educators needed to stand up against the KKK. He believed they needed to be held accountable for their hateful actions and asked the Council to pass a mask ordinance so these people at least have to show their face.

PUBLIC INPUT

Andrea Smith from Big Brothers Big Sisters thanked the Council for their support for the Bowl for Kids Sake event and announced that the Council's team helped raise \$880. Smith then told some of the success stories that have happened in the last year at Big Brother Big Sisters.

Isabel Piedmont came to the Council meeting to wish everyone a Happy Earth Week. She then gave some examples of things community members could do to be good stewards of our planet.

There were ¹⁰ appointments to Boards and Commissions.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

There was no legislation for final action at this meeting.

LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING

It was moved and seconded that the following legislation be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. Clerk Moore read the legislation by title and synopsis.

LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING

Ordinance 07-06 To Amend Title 20 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Unified Development Ordinance" – Re: To Correct Drafting Errors With Respect to Allowing Accessory Chicken Flocks in the Residential Core (RC) District; Establishing of Maximum Residential Density in the Business Park (BP) and Medical (MD) Districts, and Identification of Districts in Which Use of Dwelling Unit Equivalents is Permitted

Ordinance 07-06

Ordinance 07-09 To Amend Ordinance 06-14 Which Fixed the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, for the year 2007 – Re: Positions in the Community and Family Resources Department, Office of the Mayor, and Parks and Recreation

Ordinance 07-09

There was no public comment at this portion of the meeting.


PUBLIC INPUT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



Dave Rollo, PRESIDENT
Bloomington Common Council

Regina Moore, CLERK
City of Bloomington