



Minutes of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability February 13, 2018

Attending: Cynthia Bretheim, Andrew Predmore, Sheryl Woodhouse-Keese, Chris Reinhart, Gwen White, Sneha Dave, Teddie Phillipson-Mower, Jana McGee , Alex Crowley, Nejla Routsong, Pam Weaver

Regrets: Dave Rollo

Minutes: January 9 2018 minutes approved, no objections

Announcements:

Teddie here. Sorry was looking for my own announcements!!

Peter Iverson has had a family event and will return to the commission.

Report from Alex Crowley:

Today was the first of the public input sessions for the Sustainability Action Plan; has been in the works for a while. The consultant/partner is Gnarley Tree Institute. The idea to work now through end of summer to have a final action plan. There is an advisory group as well and then working groups that are focused on different areas of interest. WG's will be private, ngo, and public to work on specific subject matter areas. SPEA talent will be used to help Gnarley Tree. Looking forward to having BCOS have a significant role in the process as well. Encourage all to participate on the working groups.

Want to make sure there are no blind spots and get some people that wouldn't normally gravitate to this type of process to participate and offer their perspective.

The next meeting is Feb 21 4-6, open session for public. Essentially the same process as today.

Open till filled on the Sustainability Assistant Director... evaluating and open till filled.

Zeroing in on what we want to do with the position and hoping to close as soon as possible.

Chris Reinhart: on the Living Building Challenge 3.1

Has been a volunteer for the living future, pitch on living building challenge. Living building is a philosophy and a building certification program—instead of how can we do less bad, to what is ideal when it comes to our buildings. Incorporates beauty and holistic concepts like equity and social justice.

It is a challenge. Place, water, energy, health/happiness, materials, equity, beauty are the petals/elements of a living building.

20 imperatives in each petal. Not a points thing, you have to get them all. It is based on demonstration of success. Because you have to show that it is performing. Unlike LEED in this way.

Living buildings is trying to make positive regenerative impacts, not just doing less bad or less hard.

In the beginning these projects were all small, but they are starting to scale, up to 50,000 square foot. Buildings feel different, help attract and retain clients. Pick up initially was slow and it is now really starting to pick up. 400 registered projects. 15-16 fully certified living buildings in the world.

Value to owner: proven performance, industry recognition, use much much less energy, it is an investment—you own your own energy/waste/water system; it puts people at the core of the conversation.

The conferences are always in places where there are living buildings. September 12-14 in Pittsburgh, PA International Living Future Institute.

Go to Living-Future.org: they now have a community challenge as well. Living product challenge (applied to production)—the garden tower project is one of these. Have a good frame for Green Development Incentives.

Chris and Nejla are starting a Living Building Collaborative in Bloomington; they will be scheduling events and talks, likely monthly in the future.

Case studies on the website is a great resource.

Cost has come down to 200-300\$/square foot for living building. So it has come down. Sample size is low so it is hard to quantify the positive impact/pay off of a living building.

Things that are slowing growth of living buildings; cost/ perception of cost, expertise among architects, financiers are conservative and want to see/know return.

There is the cost, so living building is also looking at how to make these buildings less expensive, affordable housing.

Perhaps a presentation to city council.

Commission strategic plan goals – updates

a. Sustainability Indicators

Ongoing. Met some people, department heads for data. So this is still in progress

b. Sustainability Awards

We have 3 people. February 21 or March 7, but need to make sure that the winners can attend.

Tomorrow Gwen picks up the awards so we'll be ready. Looks like March 7 is the preferred date. Everyone seem ok to lock that in. Gwen agreed to contact the winners. Sneha and Teddie would like to speak with the winners and they want to be sure to get the presentation scripts correct.

Sneha is working on a press release. Need to do additional stuff to promote the award winners. Book the award for March 7. Gwen will confirm in the next couple days.

c. Food Policy

Cynthia and Cheryl (Pam Weever is a new commissioner, she is on the board of Bloomingfoods).

Working to get Bee Hive survey. George with community orchard. Talked to county about their policy. It only limits the # of hives/per acre. That is all.

Thinking about food waste with restaurants or grocery. Some restaurants are already doing compost for farmers or supplying their food waste. Want to encourage folks to follow their example.

Based on definitions in UDO; working with John Galuska, urban farmer. Going to connect with the food policy working group for the city sustainability action plan. Going to take to Stephanie Richards.

d. Climate Action

Wants to be on the agenda for May. Wants to present a resolution and then go to city council the same month. Looking at other resolutions in Carmel, Indy, etc.

e. Collaboration

Want to be sure that the work of BCoS feeds back into the Sustainable Action Plan. Want to see our work is compatible and that there is not crazy overlap. This is especially true when it comes to metrics for ISO.

The UDO process is very important. They have specifically asked for feedback. Alex Crowley thinks there would be value in BCoS to send thoughts to UDO, perhaps as a memo from BCoS. Strongly encourage involvement. Get on it.

Also want to make sure that we collaborate with the other commissions. There are 42 other commissions. Might want to add some other groups in Bloomington, like Green Drinks. Want to be sure we aren't missing anything.

Action Items

Need UDO (unified development ordinance) comments asap.

Next work session is Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018.

Someone can start around comments on UDO. So, the next thing would be to get this started and then vet it at the Tuesday, Feb 27 meeting. Cheryl will take the lead.

Bylaws

a. Amendments

Amendment insertion; passed the Chris Reinhardt amendment to the bylaws.

Amendment: cannot have a student supervising interns. Vote. Passed—that sentence is removed.

Amendment: time limit on public comment. Passed.

Amendment: on voting, to just record. Not going to do roll call.

b. Vote on final draft - Document as amended, vote: Bylaws are passed.

Adjournment