



Bloomington Commission on Sustainability Minutes for April 10, 2018

Present: Teddie Mower, Sheryl Woodhouse-Keese, Jana McGee, Dave Rollo, Gwen White, Alex Crowley, Scott Robinson

Regrets: Pam Weaver, Sneha David, Erin Hatch, Chris Reinhart, Nejla Routsong, Andrew Predmore, Cynthia Bretheim

Olivia Ranseen is on leave.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
 - Students from Smart Cities class were visiting as the public
4. Approval of minutes: March 13, 2018
 - We don't have a quorum, so will approve next time.
5. Presentation: Scott Robinson, Interim Assistant Director, Planning and Transportation
 - Announced that the CMP was completed, recently adopted, and includes performance metrics.
 - Hi comments on the UDO:
 - Remember that UDO is only one tool of many in the city's kit.
 - ***April 30 & May 1 there will be open sessions re: UDO at Monroe County public library***, the first of several that will be scheduled t/o 2018.
 - Before commenting, look first at annotated outline that will be available soon.
 - Request UDO updates (including availability of annotated outline) on city website: udoupdate+subscribe@bloomington.in.gov.
 - Re: Green building codes
 - only a few projects to date have used eco incentives in UDO.

- How to get more people to utilize incentives?
- Tracking - research how are other cities tracking progress of their green building initiatives?
- LEED cert happens after building has been built, not in planning stages when city planning is involved. How to change?
- City wants to do a better job of using tech to track applications, licenses, etc.

Dave - advocated for garden markets being allowed in all zoning districts. Reminder that municipal code may have to be changed to implement UDO updates.

Scott - City also has to make sure UDO, municipal codes are not in conflict with any state laws.

Dave - suggests spreadsheet to ensure follow through on UDO directives to see how they're implemented in the code: Ordinance, Goal, Policy, Code. Can we find a way to make this user-friendly for the public?

Gwen - what's the best format for us to submit our UDO suggestions?

Scott - just written ideas in the beginning are fine. Can submit a memo from BCOS, but Individuals can submit comments as well, all comments given equal weight. Lofty generalizations can be hard to work with. Specifics are good!! The more specific the better.

Gwen- What carries weight? Research-backed suggestions?

Scott - ***Hearing the same feedback from lots of different constituents is what carries weight. Research helps, but proof that something works isn't necessary.***

Dave - repeated issue that keeps arising: neighborhood covenants conflicting with city code, preventing citizens from engaging in sustainability initiatives. How to review covenants, get an idea of scope of issue?

6. Report from Alex Crowley, Director of Economic and Sustainable Development
 - Autumn Salamack started as Asst. Director of Sustainability
 - Significant, time-sensitive programs she's jumped right into:
 - Hoosier to Hoosier
 - Applying for, recruiting AmeriCorp help
 - City's solar efforts
 - Solarize/SIREN:
 - Learning from 2017, how to proceed in 2018.
 - Even now, still have 15 years of net metering, still a great deal.
 - Dropping market rates + Solarize's joint buying power making panels more affordable.

- Citizens are encouraged to get solar ASAP.

Gwen will be gone for May's meeting, speaking at Resilient Cities Conference, on Circular Economy and Solid Waste issues (Hoosier to Hoosier, Habitat ReStore, leaf pick up/Good Earth compost). ***Any other topics, Bloomington examples, please send to Gwen!*** Not just nonprofits, but business and city support of keeping materials out of waste stream.

Nonprofits can apply to City for limited amount of funding from Jack Hopkins fund. City gets twice as many requests as they can fund (approx. \$300K in funding granted each year). <https://bloomington.in.gov/boards/jack-hopkins>

Gwen - wants to see reports congregated and easy accessible

7. Strategic Plan Updates

- Sustainable Planning
 - Wednesday, April 18th - status update at city council meeting (in mayoral report)
 - SAP – Working groups
 - UDO – Next Steps
 - Template for BCOS comments – attend public meetings and make comments

8. BCOS Elections in July

- Process for Elections - think about process. How do we want to do this?
 - Structure (chair/vice chair or co-chairs?)
 - All positions open
 - Commissioners should announce their interest in leadership position or nominate others at June public meeting. If you intend to run, prepare brief statement about your ability, commitment, interest, and what you bring to the position at working session June 26th.
- Interested Persons

9. New business

- ***NO BCOS working session in April or May. Starting up again in June.***
- Teddie -
 - Granfalloon Kurt Vonnegut Celebration May 10-12
 - City's Bicentennial Street Fair: Kirkwood April 29th
 - <https://bloomington.in.gov/bicentennial>
 - Presencing Institute: Transforming Capitalism lab.
- Dave - multi-use paths, pedestrian, bike study, frequency, timing of use by Natasha Jensen
- Gwen -
 - There's an invited speakers list in google drive. Put your ideas for speakers here.
 - Also, ongoing list of sustainability award nominees. Put your ideas for nominees here.

- Can we make it a strategic plan to congregate all data, reports, inventories, metrics, etc. about sustainability, easily organized and accessible?
- Alex - include these links on BCOS page of City website
 - See extracted data at Be Clear page of website
<https://data.bloomington.in.gov/>
- Teddie - people already asking about sustainability awards process for next year, wanting to nominate. We will discuss at June 26th work session.

Next Meeting:

May 8, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.