



# Commission on Sustainability Minutes

Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
  - 6:04pm
2. Roll Call
  - Members Present: Gwen White, Sheryl Woodhouse, Erin Hatch, Chris Reinhart, Teddie Mower, Jana McGee, Cynthia Bretheim, Nejla Routsong, Autumn Salamack
  - Presiding Chair: Gwen White
  - Regrets: Sneha Dave, Pam Weaver, Olivia Ranseen, Dave Rollo
  - Minutes Prepared by: Erin Hatch
3. Approval of May and June 2018 Meeting minutes
  - Teddie motioned to approve May minutes, Chris seconded, unanimous voice vote yes. May minutes approved.
  - Chris moved to approve June minutes, Sheryl seconded, unanimous voice vote yes. June minutes approved.
4. Announcements
  - Chris had first living future collaboration meeting. Good turnout out, including Autumn and Teddie. Next meeting on Thursday July 26, at Upland Brewery 5:30 to 7:30 with free beer. Next event will include Joel Grant from Garden Tower 2 talking about their journey to become a certified living product.
5. Public Comment
  - No public comment
6. Report from Department of Economic and Sustainable Development
  - Autumn:
    - Pace Bikeshare launched recently, which is off to a successful start. Hope to share metrics from the program in the near future.
    - Solarize has done well so far this summer, with 20 signed contracts. There are three more upcoming public info sessions, next session on July 17.

- Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) on track to get public feedback in late August. Have received six of the eight chapters so far.
- This Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, Americorp volunteers arrive. Will be working from July 13<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup>. Will be working on Hoosier to Hoosier, assisting Parks and Recreation with invasive removal in Lower/Upper Cascades, and community garden maintenance for unclaimed plots at Willie Streeter Garden.
- City Hall began an internal composting program through Green Camino. From June 9<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> City Hall collected 30 lbs food waste. **(See notes at end of Minutes for corrected information)**
- Transportation plan meeting this Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- UDO update consultants Clarion released 1<sup>st</sup> module, stakeholder and commission meetings July 16<sup>th</sup> with a general meeting July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The City communication staff created recurring Facebook events for Commission meetings. These include a google doc for public comment for individuals who cannot attend the meeting. Autumn will collect these to bring to future BCOS meetings.
- Submitting emissions inventory data to the Carbon Disclosure Project for 2015 and 2016, utilizing data from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and other local government data. This is the first time Bloomington has done this.

## 7. Officer Elections

- Autumn will handle the election process due to status as non-eligible, non-biased member
- Call to vote for chair structure, with votes in favor representing chair and vice-chair structure.
  - 7:1 vote for Chair and Vice-Chair structure. Chair and Vice-Chair structure approved.
- Call for nominations for Chair. Chris nominated Gwen for Chair, no other nominations. Call for votes in favor of Gwen as Chair
  - 7:0 with 1 abstain for Gwen as Chair. Gwen approved for Chair.
- Call for nominations for Vice-Chair. Nejla self-nominated for Vice-Chair, no other nominations. Call for votes in favor of Nejla as Vice-Chair.
  - 7:0 with 1 abstain for Nejla as Vice-Chair. Nejla approved as Vice-Chair.
- Call for nominations for Secretary. Erin self-nominated for Secretary, no other nominations. Call for votes in favor of Erin as Secretary.
  - 7:0 with 1 abstain for Erin as Secretary. Erin approved as Secretary.
- Call for nominations for Treasurer. Chris self-nominated for Treasurer, no other nominations. Call for votes in favor of Chris as Treasurer.
  - 8:0 for Chris as Treasurer. Chris approved as Treasurer.
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8. Recommendations for the use of the BCOS/Sustainability email (Google Groups)
  - Had adhoc working group meeting. Decided to have Autumn and the Economic and Sustainable Development Department manage the google group. Autumn plans on producing a quarterly newsletter, anticipating the final quarter of 2018 or first quarter of 2019. BCOS would consult on this and input articles. Article writing responsibility would be on a rotational basis between BCOS members. Hope to have the quarterly newsletter be short easy to digest, utilize it as a way to showcase upcoming events, educational opportunities, and updates on SAP and UDO
  - Cynthia: I already have a few articles that could be used. For example one on field nesting birds and bee regulations.
  - Gwen: This keeps with BCOS' role in the city, as monitoring and reporting on sustainability practices.
9. Commission strategic plan goals - updates
  - Sustainability Indicators
    - No new updates, looking to reconnect with ISO associates that Gwen met during her trip to Bonn. Sneha is working on gathering numbers along with Teddie and Chris. As per request from Chris, Gwen will send an email out to members to refresh them on their responsibilities on data gathering.
    - Chris: Do we have to hit a certain threshold of data?
      - Gwen: If we want to declare a certain level as part of the ISO program, then yes there are certain levels of data to collect. Additionally we could discuss with the public and city what data is useful to know, and just create a narrative for the city around this data.
  - Sustainability Awards
    - Teddie: We will probably maintain the same criteria as previous year, but also looking into how to open the process up to the public to allow for nominations and increased participation.
    - Nejla: Sneha and myself met this previous week, in regard to sustainable business certification, and are currently thinking using general categories of B-corporation.net with some simplification and modification to allow for smaller size of Bloomington companies. Sneha will come up with these modified categories, then we will invite the Chamber of Commerce to give their feedback. We want to keep the program manageable by keeping it pass/fail for obtaining the certification, but can obtain points in various categories. Request to have the companies provide BCOS that information, to cut down on need for additional involvement.
      - Chris: We should run it through commission as whole before it goes to the chamber.
      - Gwen: In 2009 there was a green business program started, petered out in 2012, but the business community had interest in this type of program. To keep manageable give a

time stamp for their certification, for example that they were approved for certification for 2018-2019.

- Cynthia: there is a green restaurant association certification, only Bloomington Brewery Corp (Lennie's) is the only one in town. Can relate to BCOS certification.
- Food Policy
  - Sheryl: In August the food working group will be able to review SAP, then when approved to help recruit partners and participate in getting organizations to fulfill SAP goals
- Climate Action
  - Teddie: No new information. Met with Autumn, next steps is to get students together to have her speak with her and let them know all the plans and the status of these other plans (SAP, UDO).
- Collaboration
  - Nejla: In Google drive. Document is ready for members to vote on the organizations to prioritize collaboration efforts. Label organizations 1 or 2. Vote of 1 means we will review activities annually and send BCOS goals. Vote of 2 means review activities monthly, send BCOS goals, and invite to speak at BCOS
    - Gwen requested to change monthly to quarterly. Additionally, to add another vote category of 0, for organizations that don't call for BCOS interaction. Nejla agreed.
    - Chris: Let's limit the number of organizations that we would interact with regularly to match the number of active numbers.

#### 10. New Business

- Chris: Transportation plan was released and is open for comments, some pretty big changes based on preliminary review, specifically reversion of College Ave and Walnut Ave to two way traffic. Anyone interested should review it, and attend the public meeting on Thursday night.
- Teddie: Anecdotally through Facebook, there has been some interesting commentary about how the plan if implemented may affect individuals' accessibility.
- Cynthia has some concerns about bus transit in the transportation plan. There seems to be a mismatch between bus availability and usage.
  - Sheryl and Cynthia acknowledge there is a public relations problem and cultural problem needed to overcome to increase ridership
  - Nejla presented how in larger cities using public transit often is due to economic incentives, as it is inexpensive to park. Which Gwen notes the mismatch between current economy and cost of parking in Bloomington, with parking staying very low cost.

- Sheryl: People who live outside the city, cannot afford to live in Bloomington and have to drive. So having economic motivators may push these people out and reduce accessibility even more.
- Teddie: There needs to be collaboration with the county as well. Additionally there is a safety issue.
- Nejla presented some potential ideas such as income-based sliding scale pricing for Bloomington Transit access, need for park-and-ride programs partnered with rural transit.
- Gwen: The mention of Lyft and Uber within the transportation plan brings up the issue of people wanting to use options that are reliable and on time, and Bloomington Transit currently has a reliability and timeliness issue.
- Autumn: Within the context of SAP, the City is talking about how to strengthen our multi-model network and increase flexibility in transit. It is somewhat focused on those who are located within the transit area and can already utilize these modes of transit, so it does have limitations.
- Gwen: Isn't there an RFP for a transit study out?
  - Autumn: Yes, there is a plan for a study of Bloomington Transit.
  - Gwen: There was a Parking Report that highlighted driving and parking patterns. Wouldn't be surprised if this was used to educate these other plans and reports.

#### 11. Adjournment

- Teddie moved to adjourn, Cynthia seconded.

#### **Minute Corrections**

- Dates and results of City Hall's composting program were misstated. With actual dates and waste amount collected being 42.5 lbs of food waste from June 11<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Work Session – July 24, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Auxiliary aids for people with disabilities are available upon request with adequate notice. Please call 812.349.3837.