



Commission on Sustainability

July Work Session Minutes

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

McCloskey Room (#135), City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Sneha Dave, Jana McGee, Gwen White, Teddie Mower, Chris Reinhart, Autumn Salamack, Erin Hatch, Cynthia Bretheim, Nejla Routsong
 - Regrets: Pam Weaver, Sheryl Woodhouse, Olivia Ranseen, Andrew Predmore, Dave Rollo
3. Autumn Salamack
 - a. STAR Community Index 2019 and SAP
 - SAP has been relying heavily on the STAR framework for setting goals and an overall goal setting framework. Looking for feedback on STAR system from BCOS.
 - The STAR Framework grew out of the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, which Bloomington belongs to, which has been a good sounding board for new ordinances, programs, cost, and technical questions. STAR is unique in that it is focused on local government sustainability. It evaluates community level outcomes, which are quantitative elements and qualitative actions the government takes. This is broken up into eight areas of focus: built environment, climate and energy, education, arts, and community, equity and empowerment, health and safety, natural systems, innovation and process, and lastly economy and jobs. There are a few levels of participation, from simply getting certified to being a 3, 4, or 5 star community. It is an intensive process, taking about 1-year to complete.
 - For Bloomington, Autumn would serve as the project manager. We have already asked for 4k in the 2019 budget for items related to STAR specifically, which includes the 1k annual fee for full membership, and the 3k onetime fee for verification. The certification is good for 4 years. Membership fee covers staff support from the STAR technical team.

- Request: Use STAR reporting framework for Bloomington and strive for 3-star certification by 2020.
 - Use this framework to more clearly define what sustainability means (including equity and empowerment, and economy and jobs, not just environmental).
 - Had a McKinney Family Foundations fully paid 40hrs a week this summer, which would be ideal for next summer to focus solely on the STAR project.
- Questions
 - Chris: Is the SAP being written so that this is the tool being explicitly referenced to measure the plan?
 - Autumn: there would be an explicit goal and recommendation in the plan to utilize the STAR framework to measure progress and set goals not already including in the SAP. In addition, we would be reporting the progress of goals from the SAP to put back into STAR. It won't be used as an annual tool to feedback progress from the SAP.
 - Sneha: What is the incentive to be a STAR community? Or the different types? Is more to develop a framework than to achieve certification?
 - Autumn: The different levels require different points, if you hit 5-star you really are improving the sustainability of your community. Measures are more outcome based, not plan based. Incentive is mainly bragging rights. We want both.
 - Sneha: How would this affect businesses who may be planning on moving into the community?
 - Gwen: This could be used as a device down the road to attract businesses to the community.
 - Sneha: Do most cities stay for a long period in this certification as this is a newer. Would be interested to know if they have good consistency with cities staying in the programs.
 - Autumn: It has been around since 2010/2012.
 - Cynthia: I can imagine it being used by retirees, students, professors to decide if they want to move here.
 - Chris: I like the potential for broadening the scope of the SAP down the road, as people are only going to provide feedback on what you prompt them to.
 - Autumn: Would like to ask BCOS help to communicate the SAP is a starting draft, and does not encompass everything, but it is meant to be a starting point that would be modified and expanded as time moves.

4. UDO Module 1 Draft – Updates from stakeholders meetings

- Gwen attended the presentation for the first Module. In Module 1 the consultants looked at CMP and its goals against the current UDO, and how to change the categories of development/zoning. They presented a very consistent approach to compare the current and proposed UDO side

by side. Most work related to sustainability will come in Module 2. Looking to Chris to provide insight for resources to better educate BCOS members for commenting on Module 2.

- Chris: We could look all over the place, the Living Building Challenge has information about building dimensional and design standard, LEED does as well, also books on new urbanism (character of towns, etc.) such as those about Andrew Duany or Jane Jacobs.
- Chris: Did they propose a map of overall zoning changes?
- Gwen: Don't think so, mainly just changed naming and categorization of zones. Combined the downtown areas to be a singular downtown overlay. Seems like this decision was based on the CMP and the focus on the character of the Downtown.
- Autumn: When is the next module out?
- Erin: September 11th, the date is on the UDO Update website.
- Nejla: They haven't updated sustainability incentives?
- Gwen: No that will come in Module 2 and 3.

5. Commission strategic plan goals

a. Sustainability Indicators

- Still working on those, no news

b. Sustainability Awards

- Gwen and Teddie met, came up with a framework for the award process, this is to be put out to the public. Right now examples are pretty broad, this can be fine-tuned. Last year had 3 criteria: initiative, impact, and innovation.
- Set a To Do list
 - Create a rating scale and defined rubric.
 - Establish an online platform on the city website to submit nominations – would consult with Autumn to achieve this.
 - Activities for nomination process and awards presentation.
 - March 2019 work session agenda to have a BCOS activity to publicize award nominations.
 - Publicize during April for nominations, with final submissions being April 30th
 - Media press release.
 - Determine award date – May 2019.
 - Contact individual who made the awards from last year.
- Created a mock-nomination form for the open nominations. Presented via projector.
 - Cynthia: Would their accomplishments being the projects they have already done? Would this simply be a list of projects, or would this be more a quantitative measure for their accomplishments?
 - Teddie: Would need to have some guidance on how to make sure they have measureable outcomes. They will be made aware that we rank them on the 3 criteria.

- Gwen: We will go beyond this nominating paragraph and do our due diligence to evaluate them on these things, we as a committee would have to dig deeper ourselves.
- Nejla: Would it be good to have the nominating form have them speak specifically on those three criteria?
- Teddie: We had wanted to simplify.
- Cythia: Maybe looking for more language that would steer them towards numbers rather than projects?
- Gwen: Maybe we can incorporate these criteria into the nominations paragraphs.
- Autumn: Wondering if it makes sense to say efforts rather than measurable accomplishments.
- Chris: Maybe if we provide examples such as those who won last year and provide 300 word categories examples.
- Teddie: It would be fair to provide examples for what we are looking at, but don't want to see the same types of nominations.
- Gwen: Let's put comments in the initial idea document in google drive.
- BCOS certification update
 - Sneha met with the chamber today, and they were really interested in partnering with BCOS for certification. They would like a 1-page overview to send out to everyone in the chamber, to see if the members would be interested. Also, talked about the previous chamber program for green businesses said it failed due to it just measuring environmental impacts, so created a big difference between what a small business and large corporation would be measured on.
 - Chris: Do we want to limit the scope of who we are looking at?
 - Nejla: We were thinking more small businesses, but no reason we couldn't design it to include larger corporations, but would benefit smaller businesses more.
 - Erin: Could have different categories for different sized businesses?
 - Sneha: Think we should start with a small group first, and more geared towards smaller businesses initially.
 - Sneha: We can work on the 1-pager and send it to entire BCOS to look at, has to be done by August 8th.
- c. Food Policy
 - No updates.
- d. Climate Action
 - No updates, still trying to schedule a meeting between students and Autumn.
- e. Sustainable City Planning
 - Already covered in previous UDO and SAP discussion.

- Chris: Maybe another thing we can do now is start speaking to city council members before hand since they turn the UDO updates into code.
 - Gwen: Do we want to focus on green incentives or what do we want to focus on?
 - Nejla: Do they want our ideas before the next draft comes out or until after the draft comes out?
 - Autumn: Would more want feedback after the fact.
 - Chris: Could send comments to Scott Robinson beforehand. Cynthia brings up the character piece, which is covered somewhat in the first module. Feels like most of what we want to be prepared to send comments to City Council
 - Erin: Maybe send an email out for us to send in bullet points on what to focus on.
 - Gwen: Look at the CMP, then look at Module 1, then take August 14th monthly meeting to talk about UDO.
 - Nejla: We could create a document to add thoughts online.
- f. Collaboration
- Nejla: Everyone mainly voted, and results have been summarized. Had 15 highest priority, 28 medium, and 6 no priority groups. Will follow up and send out initial messages to groups we voted as priority.

6. Adjournment

- Announcements:
 - Nejla: Got hired full time in IU Kelley. Living future collaborative talk on Thursday 7/26.
 - Teddie: Green drinks and science café tomorrow (Wednesday 25th). On antibiotic resistance, and effect on vulnerable communities in light of new energy systems.

Adjourned: 7:30pm

Minute Corrections

- Background information regarding the STAR framework should be corrected to indicate that it grew out of ICLEI and the US Green Building Council rather than the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.

Next Meeting:

Monthly Meeting, August 14, 2018 McCloskey Room (#135) City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

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