



Minutes

Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, August 14th, 2018, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Teddie Mower, Gwen White (Chair), Cynthia Bretheim, Dave Rollo, Autumn Salamack (Liaison)
 - Absent: Erin Hatch, Sneha Dave, Pam Weaver, Sheryl Woodhouse, Andrew Predmore, Jana McGee, Olivia Ranseen, Chris Reinhart, Njela Routsong
3. Approval of July Meeting minutes
 - No quorum to approve July minutes
4. Announcements
 - Teddie: Climate Leadership Summit happening September 13th in Indianapolis.
 - Dave: There was a recent paper in PNAS about feedback mechanisms of climate change effects that could be additive, and highlights the importance of avoiding a climate change tipping point leading to these synergistic effects
5. Public Comment
 - Mary Catherine Carmichael: Public Engagement Director of Bloomington, which helps place citizens on boards and commissions. Would love help from BCOS to direct people to the Bloomington website to apply and put in their interests in serving.
 - Teddie: What is the process for getting communications out for boards and commissions?
 - Mary: Yael is now the individual who is charge of communications; additionally Laura Collins is the social media specialist. They would be best points of contact.
 - Dave: What about having alternate members for boards and commissions?

- Mary: Can't be voting members without a code change, and would advise against that. I make recommendations to Mayor for applicants that are well suited, but the final decision is his.
6. Report from Autumn Salamack, Department of Economic and Sustainable Development
- Hoosier to Hoosier Sale coming up Saturday, still looking for volunteers later in the afternoon for 3 hour volunteer shifts. Many positions are open from cashier to helping load furniture. There is an electronic sign-up for volunteering on the Hoosier to Hoosier website.
 - Dave: How are you advertising the sale?
 - Autumn: Advertisements have been posted on campus, on social media, and we worked with RPS to include information in orientation materials. Also have done some PSAs for radio stations and ads in newspapers.
 - SAP draft expected to be shared Monday, there is a two-week public review period, ending August 31st. Hosting multiple comment and information sessions: August 21st 4-7pm at Tuesday Farmer's Market, August 22nd at Green Drinks at Upland Brewery, August 27th formal open house at the Library, and August 30th 4-5:30pm with open house hours at City Hall. Plan will be posted online on civic comment platform, which allows citizens to read the plan and engage both commentary and dialogue electronically. Also have a general comment form via Google forms. The four original working groups will also be giving recommendations and feedback again on this draft plan.
 - Dave: When will the final plan be finished?
 - Autumn: Within 2-3 weeks from the close of draft public comment period, then whenever we can schedule to have that draft seen by the Common Council.
 - Americorp volunteers working on Hoosier to Hoosier until 21st of August, then will help Parks and Recreation with invasive removal and community gardens. Looking to host a thank you event for them August 28th 5-6pm.
 - Solarize Bloomington is well underway, and have hosted multiple information sessions so far. Most recently at the farmer's market with good turnout. Next information session is August 25th at City Hall at 10am, with more sessions in September and October.
 - Worked with Purdue Extension to submit a grant application for a value chain coordinator position, will find out in October if we were successful in obtaining this grant funding. This position would work specifically in the local food economy to strengthen partnerships between growers and buyers.
 - Teddie: So IU is not working on this program?
 - Autumn: Purdue had applied for this money from the USDA, and we are working through them to try to place one of these positions in Bloomington.
 - Dave: How long is this grant for?
 - Autumn: The grant is for 3 years.

- STAR program is now being absorbed into LEED for Cities program, the exact outcome of this merger is unclear but hopefully will have a sense by the end of the year. Hopefully metrics from STAR will be taken into the LEED for Cities.
 - Cynthia: So these metrics help compare cities to each other but not necessarily relating research?
 - Autumn: It benchmarks performance against yourself and compares to other locations year after year. You earn points that count towards certification, but you choose which areas to focus on. STAR breaks these up into outcomes and actions; outcomes actually measure a change and actions would be policy or plan creation and adoption.

7. Report from Chair

- Have been working on putting together a cheat sheet on how an average meeting would flow based on Robert's Rules of Order. One change is we do need to ensure we are officially approving the agenda each meeting with quorum. Every time we get a new member these rules will be provided to them, so that they can follow the protocol of the meetings. There is a sample meeting minutes outline to help the Secretary in the future.

8. Commission strategic plan goals - updates

- Sustainability Indicators
 - Still in the same spot as before, no progress.
- Sustainability Awards (Document on Google Drive)
 - There is a draft nomination form put together in Google Drive, as per last work session. Members should put any comments or suggestions into this document.
 - Sneha and Nejla have been working on the Sustainability Business Certification/Award, and there is a draft document to be sent to the Chamber of Commerce. This would be geared towards small to medium organizations rather than larger groups or IU.
 - Dave: Going off the business awards, would be good to have a program or award for local restaurants for sourcing a certain percentage of their food locally.
- Food Policy
 - No progress, waiting on the UDO updates for further action.
- Climate Action
 - Autumn sat down with the remaining group of high school students, most have moved on to college. The teacher Angie would like to continue with this project. The students are looking to have feedback from common council on their previous presentation.
- Sustainable City Planning
 - Waiting for Module 2 to come out.
- Collaboration
 - Nejla put out a sheet for collaboration a while back to identify groups with shared interests.

9. New Business

- Gwen: Met an individual involved in Monroe County School sustainability, and plan on inviting her to come speak at one of our future meeting.
- Dave: Might want to have Friends of Lake Monroe come present in regard to their watershed plan and grant application.

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Work Session – August 28, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

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