



Work Session Minutes

Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
McCloskey Room (#135), City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
 - Called to order: 7:10pm
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Gwen White, Cynthia Bretheim, Jana McGee, Erin Hatch, Teddie Mower, Autumn Salamack (Liaison), Olivia Ranseen, Sneha Dave
 - Absent: Nejla Routsong, Chris Reinhart, Pam Weaver, Sheryl Woodhouse, Andrew Predmore
3. SAP Review and comments for Autumn Salamack
 - Accepting public comment until end of week, August 31st, and have been hosting multiple information and comment sessions. This is the 1st time the public is seeing the result of this 7-month process, with the Citizen's Advisory Board seeing the draft in July. The RFP for the plan called for inclusion of all three elements of sustainability (Environmental, Economic, and Social Equity), with a focus on the environment. In response to this RFP and community input the draft plan is focused mainly on environmental goals. Hoping to have the plan finalized and to take it in front of the Common Council by the end of September. This should be seen as a starting point, with potential to expand in the future as goals are met and change. Also hope to use this to start a larger more holistic conversation within the community on all aspects of sustainability. The SAP is meant to make goals of the CMP into actions by attaching timelines, metrics, ensuring a reporting mechanism on progress, and creating a starting point for a strategic framework.
 - Creation of this draft was based on Stephanie and her team researching metrics, indicators, and best practices of sustainability frameworks and peer communities. The SAP creation process included multiple community consultations (two open houses and online survey), an advisory board, and working groups (16 meetings). Resulting in around 200 people participating in development of the draft plan.

- The draft plan focus areas are climate change and adaptation, energy and the built environment, transportation, local food and agriculture, waste, water, ecosystem health, & city operations. The plan focused on near term actionable items, but also have a vision statement for each chapter reflecting long term aspirational goals for the community, with success stories of recent projects, and a call to action for citizen action. Each chapter has goals and actions with identification of lead partners, timeframe, and costs for each action.
- Climate change and adaptation: two pronged approach (mitigation and adaptation); energy built env: reduce building energy use and increase green build cert; transp: 6 goals; food and ag: equity and access to food, looking at opportunity to strengthen economic partnerships by setting baselines for what large institutional food buyers are purchasing; waste: 1 goal, but a lofty goal only applies to city of Bloomington not private haulers, about a doubling of current recycling rate; water: 7 goals, reducing consumption safe drinking water improving surface and storm water quality, expanding participation in city led surface water programs and reducing number of sanitary sewer overflows, there are a lot of conversations in Bloomington rn on this, so a lot is reflective on what they are planning on doing already; ecosystem health: 2 goals; city operations: 10 goals reflective of each of the other topical areas to be applied internally. Both previous internal waste audits and purchasing policies were only done to city hall, want to expand to make more institutional to all facilities.
- Questions:
 - Sneha: What is an urban village center? Could these be used to address food desserts?
 - Autumn: The Transportation Chapter contains information on these, and what elements they should include. With the goal of getting 5 of these established in next 5 years, with 21 identified. Can help with ensuring provision of amenities through establishment of mixed-use centers.
 - Erin: How did you identify the lead partners and do they know they have been identified as such?
 - Autumn: Those identified lead partners were part of the initial creation process, and after the draft plan creation I emailed all those additional partners as well. Have heard back from almost all partners, and went out and did presentations as well to these groups (chamber of commerce, BEC, etc.). I have asked that partners inform me if they think they are not applicable or if they want to be part of the plan.
 - Olivia: Where would this money come from? What is the prioritization for the goals and action items?
 - Autumn: Once this plan gets finalized we can use as fodder for the budgeting process and make sure funding gets secured for the

identified departments for these programs. We don't have control over funding and budgeting for identified external partners.

- Olivia: Is the ESD budget going to be expanded, and do they have the capacity for the proposed action items?
 - Autumn: A lot of these actions are already within the existing scope of the ESD budget, so no staffing increases, but we are scaling up the budget for 2019. This includes money for symposiums and collaboration with IU, and creation of a climate change vulnerability report. Right now the first budget read was through as approved but a second round of budget hearings will occur. In future iteration of this plan we would want to do a cost-benefit analysis and impact evaluation, but that was not within scope of this iteration. We have proposed membership to ICLEI, which has a mechanism to input actions and metrics and produces output of impact and effects. Also, the Environmental Resiliency Institute approached us about an ICLEI cohort across Indiana, where the cohort would all receive ICLEI training.
 - Gwen: A general comment about the draft plan is that it should be a stand-alone and be self-sufficient. So should have everything referenced or defined so that anyone can access it.
4. UDO Module 2 – Collaboration with Environmental Commission
- Gwen: Received an email from Linda Thompson (Liaison for the Environmental Commission) with the idea of the two commissions working together to comment on the UDO, wrote back that we would be interested. Module 2 draft not available yet.
5. Commission strategic plan goals
- a. Sustainability Indicators
 - Gwen: We need to organize to get everyone to compile their indicators.
 - Teddie: What timeframe for the numbers are we looking for? Just most recent numbers? Just say where we got the data from and the methodology?
 - Gwen: Yes, just find the numbers you can and provide the methodology and metadata was associated with the metrics.
 - b. Sustainability Awards
 - Gwen: Looking to get input for the nomination process, let's try to have feedback by next meeting.
 - Sneha: Nejla and I wrote a 1-page sheet about the Sustainability Certification to Chamber of Commerce, but haven't heard back yet.
 - c. Food Policy
 - Teddie: Dave Rollo had the idea of looking into certification or awards for restaurants based on their local food sourcing amounts. Would like to get a good idea from different

restaurants how much, a percentage, of their food is locally procured, with local food defined as Monroe County.

- Olivia: It would make sense to expand to beyond Monroe County, perhaps to southern Indiana.
- Autumn: Local foods usually mean 250 miles.
- Cynthia: IU in previous years were looking into local sourcing, and found they had to expand to a 500 mile radius, due to the small size of local farmers and seasonality, and there was an issue of capacity in terms of quantity and regularity.

d. Climate Action

- Teddie: Students went through the SAP and identified parts where their climate action plan did and didn't overlap. Dave was going to get the councilors together to speak with the high school students to give them an idea on what items to prioritize in terms of feasibility. Will be requesting a letter of support from BCOS and the Mayor then will be working with Dan to make sure they can navigate the hearing process.

e. Sustainable City Planning

- Waiting on UDO Module 2.

f. Collaboration

- No news.

6. Announcements

- Teddie: ScienceFest is occurring October 27th. Climate Leadership Summit September 13th in Indianapolis. Having BirdFest again this season.
- Autumn: Thank you Jana for volunteering at Hoosier to Hoosier sale. Had a record year with 3,100 people attending. There was a battery electric bus today that was running on the 3 route, with future potential grants for Bloomington Transit to test out.
- Gwen: Might not be here for next September meetings due to work meetings, going to San Diego then Mexico.

7. Adjournment

- Adjourned at 7:26pm

Next Meeting:

Monthly Meeting, September 11, 2018 McCloskey Room (#135) City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

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