



Minutes

Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Autumn Salamack (Liaison), Jana McGee, Erin Hatch, Teddie Mower, Gwen White (Chair), Pam Weaver, Cynthia Bretheim
 - Absent: Sneha Dave, Dave Rollo, Nejla Routsong, Christopher Reinhart, Andrew Predmore
3. Approval of Agenda
 - No quorum.
4. Approval of Minutes, January 22 and February 12, 26, 2019
 - No quorum.
5. Announcements
 - Teddie: Bloomington BirdFest is happening April 13th at Karst Farm Park 1-4pm. Still looking for organizations that want to be part of this. Going to have another Flying Wild workshop on March 25th at 6pm in Monroe County Library room 1c. GreenDrinks is having a talk on Bloomington Cohousing, with Loren Wood and Mark Cornett. March 27th 5:30pm-7:30pm at Upland Brewery.
6. Public Comment
 - No public comment.
7. Ryan Conway – Fable Farms Composting in Bloomington
 - Ryan: Fable Farms is a compost facility, registered with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). In the first year (Feb to Feb) of operations, we were able to divert 95 tons of compostable waste. We are looking to expand onto an additional 8 acres of composting space. Right now only have 1/3 of an acre, so this expansion would really increase our capacity. We now offer finished compost, which is derived from leaves, mulch and food waste. Additionally, we are expanding to include faith communities for collection. Previously we collected from coffee shops, sororities, etc. The point would cut down travel time and resources. We will either be constructing wooden corals for people to

leave and take pre- and post-compost, or we may have a truck parked so that people can pick up and drop off with the truck. This would allow faith community members to drop off composting material at their faith organization. Made Up Mind (MUM) is a wrap-around employment program, which has been operating for year and a half. Earth Keepers community compost is partnering with MUM. This would provide living wage jobs in the sustainability sector. Right now the Unitarian Universalist church is going to do a soft launch. We want to encourage the city to buy compost to do erosion control and bio-remediation. Compost can be used for more than just gardening and landscaping. It can be used for development and highway projects and soil retention.

- Pam: Does the City itself do the collection of trash/recycling?
- Autumn: Yes, but only for single-family homes and residential buildings with 4 units or less.
- Pam: Is there a central drop off point for compost currently?
- Autumn: No, but the county is hosting a meeting about potential options for drop off sites for food waste collection.

8. Report from Autumn Salamack, Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD)

- We were approved as an EPA Green Power Partner. That means we met their minimum requirements for generating sufficient power from renewables (~5%). This is mainly due to the solar panels at City Hall, which is good considering that most were not up and running until later in the fall. The last time an organization in Indiana was recognized was 2016.
 - Erin: Is this program limited to just city operations?
 - Autumn: You can choose what your parameters are.
- Submitting an application to IDEM for their Greening the Government award, as part of the Governor's Environmental Awards.
- We will have a summer extern from ISDP, which funds a full time summer intern. The intern will be working in the ESD, and the selected extern is Savannah who has already been working in our office.
- Right now LEED for Cities have a draft framework out and looking to have a final copy out April 1st. Since there is transition from STAR to LEED for Cities, they are offering a grant, 25k value in support. This year they are looking for more diversity in types of communities that they are going to fund. I have an application drafted, and we looking for letters of support for this application. We have reached out to the chamber of commerce, IU, Environmental Commission, BCOS, and others. BCOS would be actively engaged to identify which credits the city would choose to collect data on. Additionally, there is a two-day workshop in D.C., and we are asking for a staff person and an appointed person to attend.
 - Gwen: Given the time factor, we have already drafted a letter of support. Since we don't have a quorum we can have individuals as members of the commission sign the letter, but not the commission as a whole.
 - Marc Cornett: What does it cost?

- Autumn: \$5000, covers 3-5 years with LEED for Cities.
 - Marc: Then are you expected to submit all projects to maintain that certification? Are there min requirements to maintain status?
 - Autumn: You do need to recertify after 3-5 years but aren't required.
 - There is an event April 9th with IU at the Buskirk-Chumley. This is a talk and screening of James Balog's the Human Element. The talk starts at 5:30 pm followed by reception and viewing of film.
 - We were invited to submit an application to host Americorp volunteers again this year to assist the Hoosier to Hoosier program and help Parks and Recreation with invasive removal.
9. Transportation Plan – Proposed
- Cynthia: KONA has been working on the Transportation Plan and have been negotiating with the City to try and put a vote on it off until after June. There is so much that is not working with the Transportation Plan and the grid. One of the street definitions called for widening a lane or two, but that would not fit the existing housing and layout. The City Council will be writing amendments by the 20th, which is too much too soon. The traffic volume count used to split College and Walnut into two-ways, and the traffic crossing at 3rd St at Washington doesn't seem right. We know that there are many more cars that are driving than Washington. I think they are wrong
 - Autumn: I would be cautious of blanket statements.
 - Cynthia: The numbers used in the report came from different years.
 - Marc: I think one of the amendments that should be included in the Transportation Plan is that they have to do studies before they do large changes then that. I think they have realized their data is just not adequate.
 - Cynthia: It sounds like KONA is going to try and have the City postpone voting on the plan until the end of the year. Also in the Plan it says that on neighborhood urban streets parking on the street is optional. There are many houses in the area that don't have a space for off street parking, as they don't have alleys, garages, etc. There is a link that Dave gave us that we can submit comments to the City.
 - Erin: In this plan some of the proposed road expansion or connections go through areas identified by the Environmental Commission's Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan as environmentally sensitive areas. Also, I think there should be an increase discussion regarding rideshare services like Uber & Lyft, as they identify that these may contribute to increased miles traveled, which is in opposition to goals laid out in the Comprehensive Master Plan.
 - Pam: This would require developers to be responsible to build streets or feeder roads.
 - Erin: That isn't new.

- Pam: The type of road that they are suggesting is more expensive than what they are required to do right now. This is something we should consider.
- Gwen: We met with 2 IU professors that are experts in real estate development, which was very informative. They were telling us what their expectations, considerations, and their time frame. They talked about their capitalization, at a minimum they want a 20% return, as when they bid on project to develop they have a certain amount that already takes into account their cost of the project. If additional burdens are put on requests that increases the cost of building. There are some factors that we as a commission to consider, so that when we say we ought to demand things we should consider these impacts.

10. New Business

- No new business.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting:

Work Session, Tuesday, March 26, 2019, McCloskey Room (#135), 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.