



**RESOLUTION 2024-01**

**TO SUPPORT CHANGES TO BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE § 2.12.100  
REGARDING THE PURPOSE, DUTIES, AND POWERS OF THE BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

- WHEREAS, The Special Committee on Council Processes (SCCP) has recommended a set of amendments to Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) § 2.12.100, which establishes the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) and defines its duties and powers; and
- WHEREAS, Title 2 of the BMC plays a critical role in establishing the vision and mission of city boards and commissions; and
- WHEREAS, BCOS relies on the BMC for guidance on its objectives, structure, operations, and interactions with the Common Council, city staff, and the public; and
- WHEREAS, BCOS provides the city with an independent, citizen-led perspective on sustainability issues in Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, the 2022 organizational assessment of Bloomington's boards and commissions by the Novak Consulting Group recommended merging BCOS with the Environmental Commission (EC); and
- WHEREAS, the SCCP's December 2023 report found that the Novak assessment misinterpreted sustainability by narrowly focusing on environmental and natural resource issues, leading to the flawed conclusion that BCOS and the EC share the same mission; and
- WHEREAS, over the past year, the SCCP actively sought and incorporated input from BCOS in drafting the proposed amendments to Title 2; and
- WHEREAS, in December 2022, BCOS adopted the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for its work, a commitment reflected in the proposed updates to BMC § 2.12.100(1); and
- WHEREAS, the proposed language for BMC § 2.12.100(1) articulates a modern, comprehensive understanding of sustainability, encompassing its economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions; and

WHEREAS, the proposed language for BMC § 2.12.100(8) clarifies BCOS's role in providing oversight and policy recommendations on Bloomington's sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to BMC § 2.12.100(8) eliminate the requirement to produce an annual sustainability assessment, streamlining BCOS's responsibilities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) affirms that its mission is vital to the ecosystem of city boards and commissions. While aspects of BCOS's mission may intersect with those of other commissions, such as the Environmental Commission (EC), BCOS's unique focus on sustainability as a multi-dimensional concept—encompassing economic, social, cultural, and environmental dimensions—positions it to address complex, cross-cutting challenges that no single commission could address in isolation. BCOS's ability to integrate perspectives across these dimensions and provide independent, citizen-led policy recommendations makes it an indispensable contributor to the city's efforts to achieve a sustainable future.

SECTION 2. The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability supports the proposed changes to Bloomington Municipal Code § 2.12.100 as recommended by the Special Committee on Council Processes, provided that it incorporates the concept of resiliency in its definition of sustainability and that it specifies that BCOS is to advise and make recommendations to City administration as well as the Common Council and other city boards and commissions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability upon this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.



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JUSTIN VASEL, Chair  
Bloomington Commission on Sustainability