



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

## COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

### Minutes

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

McCloskey Conference Room — City Hall

1. **Call to Order:** Justin Vasel called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

2. **Roll Call**

Members present: Justin Vasel, Zero Rose [virtual], Tara Dunderdale, Dave Rollo, Jami Scholl, Evan Nix [virtual], Matt Austin, Alex Jorck, Quentin Gilly, Diana Ogradowski [virtual]

Members absent: Jon Eldon, Annalise Janke, Chenghuai Xu

City staff present: Shawn Miya, Jolie Perry [virtual], Margie Rice (Corporation Council), Audrey Brittingham (City Attorney)

3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: Matt Austin moved to amend the agenda to: 1) add a presentation on conflicts of interest from city legal staff after approval of minutes, and 2) move public comment to after the resolutions. Tara Dunderdale seconded. Motion approved by roll call vote 9-0-0.

ACTION: Motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion approved by roll call vote 9-0-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes: September 10, 2024**

May 13, 2025: ACTION: Motion and second to approve. Motion approved by roll call vote 9-0-0.

June 10, 2025: ACTION: Motion to approve. Motion approved by roll call vote 9-0-0.

Note: Minutes from July 8, 2025 and April 8, 2025 were not available for approval as listed on original agenda.

5. **Presentation on Conflicts of Interest (Added Item)**

Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, and Audrey Brittingham, City Attorney, provided guidance on conflicts of interest and appearance of impropriety. Key points:

- a. Indiana law defines pecuniary interest for public servants
- b. Board and commission members should disclose any interests before topics are discussed
- c. Disclosure and transparency are recommended even when not legally required
- d. Recusal from voting recommended when pecuniary interest or appearance of impropriety exists
- e. Discussion included specific guidance related to the evening's resolutions on chickens, farming, and urban forestry

6. **Report from Commissioners**

a. **Chair Report** (Justin Vasel)

- i. Presented organizational chart showing Alex Jorck as newest commissioner
- ii. Reviewed upcoming events including Climate Leadership Summit

- iii. Green Drinks presentation scheduled for August 27th at Upland Woodshop with Shawn and Jolie
- iv. Working group grants still available for 2025
- v. Community garden installation project not moving forward with city
- vi. Scheduled to present 2024 annual report to City Council on September 3rd

**b. Waste Management Working Group (Matt Austin)**

- i. Taste of Bloomington event collected 150 pounds of food waste through Bokashi fermentation
- ii. 30+ volunteers participated, including National Honor Society students
- iii. Food reclamation effort collected 300-400 pounds of unserved food for Shalom Center and Wheeler Mission
- iv. Unitarian Universalist Church partnership established with 20 members interested in Bokashi fermentation
- v. Environmental Resilience Institute reached out for similar partnership with IU students
- vi. Building decentralized pit system across city at churches, community gardens, and parks

**c. Ad-Hoc Committee: Sustainability Assessment Report (Tara Dunderdale)**

- i. Work session two weeks prior restructured report outline
- ii. Focus on energy and built environment climate action goals
- iii. Analyzing metrics and information gaps in progress reporting
- iv. Budget analysis shows urban forestry budget decreased 30% when adjusted for inflation since 2018
- v. Number of city-maintained trees doubled from 12,000 to 23,000 in same period
- vi. Resolution drafted to address urban forestry funding

**d. Council Ex-Officio (Dave Rollo)**

- i. Absent for this portion

**7. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion**

- a. Resolution 2025-01: To Adopt a Scalable Poultry Flock Size Model (Jami Scholl)
  - i. Jami Scholl reported conversation with Virgil Sauder (Animal Care and Control) who supports the proposal
  - ii. No anticipated enforcement issues
  - iii. Discussion included questions about lot size ratios and precedents from other municipalities
  - iv. Commissioners disclosed personal interests in chickens
  - v. ACTION: Matt Austin moved, Zero Rose seconded to approve. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.

**8. Resolutions for First Reading and Discussion**

- a. Resolution 2025-02: Regarding the Urban Forestry Budget (Tara Dunderdale)
  - i. Resolution addresses 30% real dollar decrease in urban forestry budget since 2018
  - ii. City responsible for double the number of trees with reduced budget
  - iii. Trees provide \$60,000 annual value in carbon sequestration, stormwater management, and air pollution removal
  - iv. ACTION: Motion to advance to second reading. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.

- b. Resolution 2025-03: To Recommend Clear Definitions for Urban Agriculture and Associated Business Structures (Jami Scholl)
- i. Jami Scholl presented definitions to Planning Commission the previous evening
  - ii. Planning Commission expressed interest in having clear definitions for UDO discussions
  - iii. ACTION: Dave Rollo and Matt Austin seconded to extend the meeting time by 10 minutes. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.
  - iv. ACTION: Alex Jorck moved to forego first reading and proceed to adoption. Matt Austin seconded. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.
  - v. Amendment proposed to add definitions for aquaculture, aquaponics, produce, and value-added product
  - vi. ACTION: Zero Rose moved to amend with additional definitions. Alex Jorck seconded. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.
  - vii. ACTION: Motion to adopt resolution as amended. Motion approved by roll call vote 9-0-1 (Quentin Gilly abstaining).

ACTION: Tara Dunderdale moved, and Matt Austin seconded to extend the meeting by 3 minutes. Motion approved by roll call vote 10-0-0.

**9. Public Comment**

Julius Mitchell, Legislative Affairs Specialist from Mayor's Office, introduced himself as resource for board appointments and legislative scheduling with City Council.

**10. Report from Staff Liaison (Shawn Miya)**

Shawn Miya reported grant termination for \$3 million solar program but confirmed \$250,000 Municipal Investment Fund grant on track for October 1st launch.

Jolie Perry announced Green Drinks presentation on August 27th at 6pm at Upland Woodshop to discuss grant and rebate programs.

**11. Member Announcements: None**

**12. Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM per agenda time limit.

NEXT MEETING:  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 6PM