

**No January 2015
Environmental Commission
Meeting**



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

MINUTES

7:00 pm, Thursday, 19 February 2015
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (3 min)

Present: Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Kriste Lindberg, Michael Litwin, David Parkhurst, Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson, Alicia Reinersman, David Cohen

Absent: Carrie Albright, Andrew Carty, Sean Gorman

Guests: Anonymous, concerned citizen; Amy Rhodes, new resident and Master's student Ball State University; David Debikey, Global Gifts store manager

2. Approval of December 2014 minutes (3 min)

- Unanimous passage of December minutes

3. Public comment (5 min)

Anonymous

This guest attempted to get information regarding polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in Bloomington over the course of a week, contacting various City and State departments. His house stands just a few blocks away from the Lemon Lane Landfill, an EPA Superfund site for PCB cleanup. He expressed concern about the lack of available data and government involvement with the site. After following the topography of the land, he noticed stormwater from the landfill flowed into streams treated by the Illinois Central Spring Treatment Plant. Upon visiting the plant, he requested a tour and the “right-to-know information” regarding water treatment chemicals and current PCB levels. He said that workers promptly asked him to leave and threatened police involvement. He believes he “unearthed a whole swamp of criminal activity” and wants the EC to help him find PCB and water treatment chemical data. He also wants to be toured around the plant and learn about the water treatment process. The EC committed to helping him find sources of information about PCBs. Linda also agreed to meet with this guest to further discuss this information.

4. Committee reports & discussions (55 min)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Linda)

1. Monroe County Parking Garage

- The nine-story garage will be located across the street from City Hall in a vacant lot. Although planned primarily for County employees, the garage might also be open for Farmers' Market parking on Saturdays.
- The roof will be used for parking, and solar panels will be installed on top of the elevator shafts to power lights.
- The first story will likely be used as an overflow area for emergency situations, particularly for inmates. The first floor might also become a work release facility.
- Regarding green features, the developers have a green wall plan. The Planning Commission requested more information about this plan and urged the developers to plant more trees.
- The Planning Commission would like the developers to reconsider the height, aesthetics, and the possibility of a work release.
 - o The Zoning District indicates that the first floor should be used for commercial purposes.

2. College Mall Whole Foods
 - Sears will be leaving College Mall and will be replaced with a Whole Foods.
 - The mall will have a main door between the current Applebee's and Sears locations, facing west. From that point north, the developers will demolish the current Sears building and parking lot.
 - The Whole Foods will not be as close to the Target as the current Sears store; a parking lot will serve as a gap between the buildings
 - Two buildings in out-lots will be restaurants. A Panera and new brewpub will be built near the Whole Foods.
 - The plan features several rain gardens, modern aesthetic, new signs, new landscaping, and a reconfigured entrance off Third Street and College Mall Road.

3. Rented Property Renovations
 - The property is on the south side of Delilah's Pet Shop at the intersection of College Avenue and 11th Street.
 - The house currently contains two apartments, and the owner plans to add two more apartments to the back of the house.
 - Linda wants to make sure the owner's landscape plan meets standards.

4. Sudbury PUD Parcel O
 - There is a proposal for an apartment complex, duplexes, and single-family homes on Sudbury Drive.
 - Nearby high quality woodlands, sinkholes, springs, steep slopes, and a riparian buffer serve as constraints to this project. Developers plan to leave alone the woodland, sinkholes, and riparian buffer. The nearby floodplain area will be protected and the developers will create a partial trail system from Tap Road.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping (10 min: Diane)

- Representatives from the Monroe County Stormwater Services spoke with Diane, wanting collaborate to help them meet their educational outreach needs.
- Diane worked with service learning and fine arts classes to develop a new design for the L4L sign. After these efforts, the Stormwater group hired a graphic designer for the sign, which visualizes the effects of lawn care on water. The design is still being modified.
- Diane took the current design to the Monroe County Stormwater Board. As a result, Elisa from the Solid Waste District expressed an interest in putting their logo on the sign.
 - This topic will be placed on the Agenda as a discussion item in March. Diane would like to communicate via email in advance to determine potential collaboration issues.

C. Tree Commission (5 min: Dedaimia)

Jim Holdhouse, a retired accountant, attended the February 18th Tree Commission meeting to discuss ash tree treatment options. His neighborhood contains approximately 50 City ash trees, and he expressed concern about the City not taking enough steps to prevent their loss. To help mitigate this issue, Holdhouse contacted experts and found a man in Vigo County who claims he can provide treatment at \$25 per tree rate. The City currently pays \$66 per tree per year, relying on the Chicago method of chemical delivery and amount. The City's Urban Forester will contact the man in Vigo County to determine how he treats trees so cheaply.

The City of Bloomington currently budgets \$25,000 per year for Emerald Ash Borer treatment. Last year, the City only treated 53 trees, spending \$7,000 of that budget. Bloomington only treats ash trees that are of high value, visibility, and are likely to survive.

Dedaimia showed the College Mall plans to the Tree Commission and discussed landscape requirements. The landscape requirements for College Mall were prior to the current City plan, and this renovation will fall under those current ordinances. Dedaimia would like to get more green space in that area. To determine which trees to

plant and add more credibility to the project, Dedaimia would like to use EC funds to hire an expert for a couple hours at an \$80 per hour rate.

D. MPO CAC (5 min: Chaim)

- Nothing of importance to the EC was discussed in the last meeting

E. Climate Action Plan (10 min: Andrew, Alicia)

F. Eco Heroes (10 min: David)

The theme for this year's Eco Heroes event follows: "Doing My Share for Cleaner Air." This event will take place in the Council Chambers on Saturday, April 25th at 10:00am during the Earth Fair and Farmers' Market. Since this event will be held in such close proximity to the Farmers' Market, only beverages will be provided at the Eco Heroes event. Last year, few people ate the provided food, and it proved to be more of a waste than a benefit. This change will help cut costs and allow more funding to go into other aspects of the event. The EC has approximately \$400 leftover from last year's budget for this event.

To help make Eco Heroes more fun and increase participation, David wants to hand out goodie bags and seeds for herbs. In lieu of a red carpet, David would like a green carpet to lead into City Hall. Also to further participation, David plans to reach out to local schools, recruiting students in art, music, and science classes. David plans to send out 110 letters to business throughout the community to gain sponsors.

Submissions and sponsorships for Eco Heroes are due on Friday, April 10th.

5. Old Business (25 min)

A. Climate Action Plan

6. New business (15 min)

- A. Bucket list. Discuss items on the bucket list from 5 February. Add items from Chaim and /or Carrie. Review ranking. Select one or two items for this year's project.

The bucket list allowed commissioners to select a couple projects to make the primary focus of 2015. Based on the commissioners' votes, each bucket list item received a numerical score. This year, the EC will take on expanding curbside recycling to include all apartment buildings and downtown businesses. Although the Climate Action Plan received the highest score, it was last year's project. Therefore, the EC will complete both projects this year.

Regarding the Climate Action Plan, Alicia developed an outline to discuss in subcommittee. Once the key components of the plan are revised, she will have a draft to how to the entire commission.

- B. Inventory the skills and interests of each commissioner. Determine what each commissioner can contribute to the year's project.
- C. Create a tentative timeline for this year's project(s).
- D. Make committee assignments for 2015.
- E. Discuss EC meeting times for 2015.

7. Meeting times (3 min)

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, 26 March, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: 25 February, and 19 March, 4:00 pm, Lemon Room
- C. Next Tree Commission meeting: 18 March, 9:30 am, Rose Hill
- D. Next BCOS meeting: 10 March, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: 11 April, 5:00 pm, Court House, Nat Hill Room
- F. Next ERAC meeting: 8 April, 4:30 pm, Winslow
- G. Next MPO Citizens Advisory Committee meeting: 25 February, 6:30 pm, McCloskey Room

8. Commissioner announcements (10 min)

A. Food Charter Proposal (David Parkhurst)

The primary idea behind this resolution is to get the City and County governments to promote food security, creating a well-functioning food system, sustainable methods of production, processes, distribution, et cetera. The resolution follows:

The Bloomington environmental commission recognizes that continued availability of adequate nutrition. Nutritious food is a critical feature of a sustainable community. We applaud the food charter proposed by the Bloomington Food Policy Council (BFPC), which recognizes the many considerations that must be given to food, including the side effects of its production, transport, and disposal to provide that availability in an environmentally sound and sustainable way. Therefore, be it resolved that the City of Bloomington Environmental Commission urges the Bloomington Common Council and the Monroe County Commission to adopt the food charter proposed by the BFPC.

At this stage, some people have suggested revisions to the proposal, which would require another meeting and would cause further delay. The City Council was going to consider the proposal on February 4th, but it got pushed back to late March or Early April. To help expedite the process and gain support, David would like the resolution to come from the EC.

The EC voted unanimously in supporting this resolution.

B. Mayoral Candidates

- Dedaimia would like to get mayoral candidates speak about their environmental stances at monthly EC meetings.
- Democracy for Monroe County will be having a forum for mayoral candidates at the end of March.
- David Debikey has scheduled an event with mayoral candidate, Darryl Neher, at his house on Saturday, March 14th. He invited EC members to this event to ask questions.

C. Democracy for Monroe County will be having their monthly meeting on March 5th at Bobby's Colorado Steakhouse, discussing transportation. Bloomington Transit General Manager, Lew Mey, will attend.

D. The Bloomington Human Rights Commission has launched a new fair neighbor initiative, and they are asking restaurants around town to commit to a set of requirements.

E. ERAC (Mike)

- ERAC will write a letter in support of continuing the deer cull next year.
- The Sycamore Land Trust received the \$1,000,000 Bicentennial Trust Fund grant to buy more land.
- The City Parks Department is starting Adopt an Acre project, relying on volunteers to remove invasive plants. The project will start at Lake Griffy and will move to other parks if successful.
- The City Parks Department is also developing a plan to reduce mowing.

9. Adjournment



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

26 March 2015, 7–9 p.m.

City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Kriste Lindberg, Linda Thompson, Diane Jung, Chaim Julian, David Parkhurst, Dave Debikey, Mike Litwin, Alicia Reinersman, David Cohen

Absent: Carrie Albright, Sean Gorman

Guests: Andrea Jobe, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); John Smith, concerned citizen; Andy Marrs, concerned citizen

- Andrew Carty resigned, and Mike Litwin took the role of Vice Chair for the EC.

2. Approval of minutes

- Unanimous passage of February minutes

3. Public comment

Andrea Jobe

Andrea sent the draft plastic bag ordinance to the EC. To gain necessary local statistics and impact factors, BYBB is seeking feedback and support from various organizations in Bloomington. BYBB developed an education outreach subcommittee. This subcommittee is working with a hero versus villain concept (i.e., the bag monster versus the reusable bag fairy) to highlight the benefits of reusable bags.

BYBB had a general meeting at 5:30pm on Monday, April 6th in the Monroe County Public Library. BYBB also plans to take the ordinance to City Council in May following the primary elections.

Jana McGee replaced Molly O'Donnell as a co-chair of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS). A new Commission member is taking on the Star Report as her primary project. The commission will be tackling one project per month. This month, BCOS is focusing on the economy and jobs. Next month, they'll be focusing on the built environment.

The Monroe County Energy Challenge task of the month for March was sealing large air leaks. April's task of the month is replacing seven incandescent bulbs with fluorescent or LED bulbs. 7 to 10 AmeriCorps fellows will be coming to Bloomington to help with the Energy Challenge in September, and they need housing for 10 weeks. Contact Andrea about any housing suggestions.

John Smith

Approximately a month and a half ago, John S. filed a public information request, seeking the City of Bloomington's current polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) data. At the EC meeting, he inquired about the status of PCB data gathering. The EC informed him about the required legal process involved in making documents available to the public. John Langley, the Deputy Director of the City of Bloomington's Utilities Department must sort through the data and give those documents to the City's Legal Department for public release approval.

In the meantime, John L. placed a CD-ROM in the public library, containing available PCB testing reports up to 2010.

John S. expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of post-2010 PCB information and the type of data presented in the available reports. More specifically, he noted that the reports only contain effluent data; he wants influent data to be more readily available, so Bloomington residents can better-understand the state of the environment. According to Smith, Thomas Alcamo, a Remedial Project Manager for the United States Environmental Protection Agency, admits that the Lemon Lane Landfill still emits 1,000 ppm of PCBs. John S. expressed concern about this information not being readily available to the public. Furthermore, Smith noted that the Illinois Central Spring Water Treatment Plant only receives water from one source, and stormwater from Lemon Lane flows in several directions. He wants PCB data from these other sources. To aid in this research, Dedaimia requested that Smith send her a list of documents he wants.

Following the PCB presentation, John S. listed numerous quotations from the *Herald Times*, demonstrating the longevity and enormity of the PCB issue in Bloomington. Smith articulated that the “whole history alludes to a sense of systematic corruption,” especially given studies started showing the adverse effects of PCB exposure as early as 1937. David P. gave Smith a list of cancer studies provided by George Haggeman, demonstrating Bloomington does not have the excessive cancer cases that are typically associated with PCB exposure.

4. Old business

a. PCB fact finding report (10 min: David Cohen)

- David C. provided a background on PCBs, the EPA Superfund cleanup sites in Bloomington, and articulated that a new 5-year review will be released this May. David C. will contact the *Herald Times* to ensure the public gets notified about the upcoming review.
- To see the full presentation, go to: https://docs.google.com/a/bloomington.in.gov/presentation/d/1I_TOYx6pZ2rr6-Drs5oOdRNAtFufnUJMt95nKNuGhjw/edit?usp=sharing.

b. Climate Action Plan (10 min: Andrew, Alicia)

- Alicia held two subcommittee meetings to discuss the outline. She now has revised the outline and will be sending it to the EC shortly. She plans on holding another meeting in a couple weeks to discuss the full draft.

c. 2015 curbside recycling project (10 min: Dedaimia)

To begin the curbside recycling project, Dedaimia has been assembling a team. In this process, Dedaimia contacted the manager of the downtown recycling center behind City Hall, Chad Roeder, and Justin Ross, a specialist in Public Finance at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA). Ross articulated an interest in creating a capstone course, allowing his students to study the economics of recycling in Bloomington. A financial analysis of Bloomington’s recycling program would provide a good foundation to a proposal seeking recycling program expansion.

c. Committee assignments (5 min)

Most committee assignments involve liaising with other groups in Bloomington with similar mission statements to the EC. The purpose of this discussion was to determine which groups are essential to the EC and which assignments can be safely removed. Dedaimia compiled a list of currently assigned and similarly focused groups to discuss, and she created a voluntary sign-up sheet committing EC members to regularly attend these meetings.

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Commission: EC members usually do not attend these meetings, but Dave will take this assignment.
- Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS): Dedaimia agreed to attend these meetings but would also like another EC member to serve as an alternate.
- Tree Commission: Dedaimia will continue to attend these meetings.
- Environmental Resources Advisory Council: this advisory council for the City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department deals with several environmental issues (e.g., the Switchyard Park and Bryan Park). Mike usually attends these meetings, but David P. agreed to take on the assignment.

- Imagine Bloomington Steering Committee: This group was drafting the updated *Growth Policies Plan* for the City. As a result of the City government's reorganization last year, however, this group has not met in over a year and has no meetings scheduled in the near future.
- Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Organization Citizens Advisory Committee (MPO CAC): Chaim attends these meetings, but he feels discussions have not been of much significance to the EC lately. Chaim believes the EC can remove the MPO CAC from the assignment list.
- Monroe County Environmental Commission: Diane and Kriste will attend these meetings, alternating months.
- Monroe County Solid Waste Management Department Citizens Advisory Committee (MCSWMD CAC): Chaim agreed to take this assignment instead of the MPO CAC.
- Planning Commission: EC members used to attend these meetings when development petitions with environmental significance were on the agenda.

5. New business

- a. Bring Your Bag Bloomington (5 min: Dave Debikey)
 - BYBB drafted an ordinance, proposing a plan to slowly reduce and potentially eliminate single-use plastic bags. The plan also calls for reducing paper bag consumption.
 - The plan encourages stores to make reusable bags affordable and requires a \$0.15 charge per single-use plastic bag, serving as an incentive for businesses and disincentive for consumers.
 - Reusable plastic bags are defined in the ordinance as being 2 mils thick (i.e., standard retail shopping bag thickness) or thicker.
 - Farmers' Markets will be exempt from the plastic bag ban since it could create a hardship for the vendors.
 - Reusable bags that meet the requirements of this ordinance may be distributed without charge during BYBB promotional events.
 - Dave will inform BYBB that the EC plans to write a letter to City Council in support of the ordinance.
- b. Meeting time – Doodle poll (5 min: Dedaimia)
 - In response to requests to reconsider monthly EC meeting days and times, Dedaimia will create a Doodle poll asking commissioners to identify times in the week when they are routinely available. This tool will help determine whether EC meetings should be changed to increase commissioner participation.
- c. Commissioner hat exercise (10 min: Dedaimia)
 - Dedaimia created an exercise to help commissioners determine situations in which they should represent the EC or themselves. Commissioners and members of the public were organized into groups and presented with scenarios. Through discussion, each group drew conclusions about whether they should wear their "commissioner hat" or "personal hat" and presented those conclusions to all hat exercise participants.

6. Committee reports & commissioner announcements

- a. Planning Comm & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Linda)

Bill Brown Fullerton Pike

 - Topsoil will be removed from cleared lots to sell to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for the Cloverleaf at Fullerton Pike.
 - This property has the following environmental concerns: sinkholes, forests, steep slopes and riparian buffers. Areas on the property affected by these issues will be avoided.
 - There are two sinkholes at the top of the hill on this property, and more sinkholes might be unearthed. City regulations do not address subsurface sinkholes.
 - The Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC) wants a full karst survey of his property to determine how topsoil removal will affect water flow. Developers are not permitted to diminish water flow into existing sinkholes.
 - The ECPC also wants a soil scientist to evaluate the site and determine what it would be like following topsoil removal.

- b. L4L Natural Landscaping (5 min: Diane)
 - The Master Gardener Show was on March 28th.
 - Diane will not be able to attend some upcoming Saturday Farmers' Markets and needs somebody to take her L4L shifts.
 - Diane also will not be able to contribute to the Eco Heroes event and would like someone to cover that shift as well.
 - Bug Fest will be on Saturday, June 26^h. Due to the size and scope of this event, Diane wants some assistance from the Commission.
 - The Monroe County Stormwater group wants to collaborate with the EC in L4L and appear on the sign as a sponsor. The sign's current design makes the Monroe County Stormwater group look like the most prominent sponsor of LFL. The sign will be revised to correct this issue.

- c. Tree Commission (5 min: Dedaimia)
 - The retired accountant who presented the ash borer information at the last Tree Commission meeting completed a cost-benefit analysis of emerald ash borer treatment. He found a way for the City to treat ash trees for under \$50 per tree.
 - The City is considering buying its own equipment and providing its own ash borer treatments. Before this decision can be made, however, the City must first understand the training process to work this equipment and administer the treatments.

- d. MPO CAC (5 min: Chaim)
 - The Democracy for Monroe County group met to discuss transportation and a transit improvement project involving INDOT.
 - While brainstorming ways to increase bus ridership, Chaim suggested an advertising campaign, saying something to the effect of the following: "Don't like parking meters? Ride the bus, and forget about them."

- e. Eco Heroes (5 min: David C)
 - April 10th is the submission deadline for Eco Heroes.
 - Eco Heroes has not received the expected level of sponsorship and funding. Since only 6 businesses have agreed to sponsor the event, David C. will follow-up with potential sponsors via phone, email, and personal visits.
 - To raise awareness of the Eco Heroes event, David C. designed a poster and has been hanging them throughout the community.

- f. ERAC (5 min: Mike)
 - ERAC did not have a meeting.

- g. BCOS (5 min: Dedaimia)
 - Mike attended this meeting and listened to a presentation by Danise Alano-Martin on the City's economic sustainability program and the update of the *Star Communities* report.
 - The City's Certified Technology Park plan is on the City's website for viewing. The master plan of the park includes artist renditions of the park's final appearance.
 - The City plans to consolidate 5 of its tax increment financing (TIF) districts into a single district. This change will allow the City to issue bonds for several projects in many districts with one overhead.

- Chaim: Democracy for Monroe County held candidate forums on Monday, March 30th and Tuesday, March 31st at 7:00pm. In the Monday meeting held in Public Library Auditorium, three mayoral candidates and uncontested City Clerk and City Council spoke. On Tuesday, in the City Council Chambers, all contested candidates for City Council spoke.

- David C. suggested that the EC create a Facebook or Twitter page. Upon going to a vote, David P. abstained. This topic will be put on the next agenda after considering standard legal practice and the ordinance.

Meeting times

- a. Environmental Commission: 16 April, 7:00 McCloskey Room
- b. Planning Committee: 1 April, 4:00, Lemon Room & 16 April, 4:00, Lemon Room
- c. Tree Commission: 15 April, 9:30 Rose Hill
- d. BCOS meeting: 14 April, 6:00 McCloskey
- e. County Environmental Quality & Sus. Commission: 8 April,
- f. ERAC: 8 April: 4:30 Winslow Park
- g. MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: 29 April, 6:30 McCloskey

7. Adjournment



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

16 April 2015, 7-9 p.m.

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

Introductions

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Alicia Reinersman, Mike Litwin, Dave Debikey, David Parkhurst, Kriste Lindberg, Chaim Julian, Linda Thompson

Absent: Sean Gorman

Guests: Andrea Jobe, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); Chad Roeder, Downtown Bloomington Recycling Center; Ellen Jacquart, Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species Group; Andy Marrs, concerned citizen; Daniel Bingham, concerned citizen

Approval of minutes

- Unanimous passage of March minutes

Public comment

Ellen Jacquart

The Monroe County's Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) group formed approximately 5 years ago to raise awareness about invasive species in Monroe County. According to MC-IRIS, invasive species are non-native species that harm economic, environmental, or human health. Through education and action, MC-IRIS reduces the effects of these invasive plants.

MC-IRIS identified the 12 most problematic invasive plant species in Monroe County and found that most of these plants are for sale at local retailers. MC-IRIS works with these local retailers, persuading them to stop selling plants that increase infestation levels. This goal led to the formation of the Go Green, Grow Native! program. Go Green, Grow Native! has already prompted several local retailers to commit to either stop selling or reduce invasive species sales by promoting native alternatives. Mays Greenhouse, for instance, still sells invasive plants. However, in collaboration with an IU class, Mays Greenhouse created caution labels for all their available invasives and provided native plant alternatives suggestions. If Mays Greenhouse and other retailers provide enough native alternatives, they should not lose profits.

MC-IRIS also provides educational services like invasive plant surveys, identifying property owners' native, exotic, or invasive plant species. MC-IRIS also provides educational materials like laminated specimens of invasive species and control calendars (i.e., how and when to control invasives). Furthermore, at Latimer Woods and Dunn's Woods, MC-IRIS offers control demonstrations for residents. Through grant funds from TogetherGreen, a National Audubon Society initiative, MC-IRIS did purple wintercreeper control at Dunn's Woods. With these funds, MC-IRIS used herbicide treatments to control the winter creeper throughout the woods. Following these treatments, they planted hundreds of native seedlings, restoring the understory. TogetherGreen was impressed with MC-IRIS's progress and provided follow-up money to perform treatments in the surrounding neighborhoods, which have purple wintercreeper in the landscaping. The additional money funded a competition to remove the winter creeper around the neighborhoods last year. Through this competition, residents learned about control methods and received free native plants.

Some Bloomington residents expressed concern about MC-IRIS's herbicide usage. MC-IRIS uses two conventional herbicides in treatment: triclopyr, a broadleaf-specific herbicide, and glyphosate (i.e., Roundup®), a broad-spectrum herbicide. As a result of this concern, MC-IRIS now provides landowners with information about these chemicals and other

treatment options. MC-IRIS would like to collaborate with the EC's Lawns for Life (L4L) to further inform people about non-chemical treatment methods.

MC-IRIS will have a table at Sustaining Nature and Your Land (SNAYL) Day on June 6th at Harmony School. At this event, MC-IRIS representatives will teach people how to perform invasive plant species control.

Old business

a. PCB update

John Smith, a concerned citizen, requested polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) information from the City. John Langley, the Deputy Director of the City of Bloomington's Utilities Department, is retrieving those documents. Prior to being released to the public, these documents must be approved by the City's Legal Department. 1,600 pages of PCB information have already been placed in the library, and John L. expects to find more information.

This May, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will release a new 5-year PCB report. When this report becomes available, Dedaimia wants each commissioner to read the report. Since David P. has a toxicology background, he will lead the commissioners in understanding report's findings.

Linda, David, Kriste, Dedaimia, and John S. received tours of the Lemon Lane Landfill and Illinois Central Springs water treatment plant. Illinois Central Springs treats PCB-contaminated water that runs off and around the landfill and into Clear Creek. This treatment plant is owned and operated by a firm working for CBS, PSARA Consulting. The PCB groundwater standard in Indiana is 0.3 ppb, and the EPA's drinking water standard is 0.5 ppb. The Illinois Central Springs water treatment plant follows these guidelines. PCB levels in the treated water are below detectable levels (i.e., below 0.1 ppb). Approximately once a year, these levels rise above a detectable level of 0.1 ppb but never exceed 0.3 ppb.

b. Climate Action Plan (Alicia)

Alicia provided each of the commissioners with CAP outlines and asked for feedback. She plans on holding a subcommittee meeting to review the current draft of the plan. However, when Andrew Carty resigned from the EC, Alicia lost a valuable subcommittee member and would like someone to fill that role. Andy Marrs agreed to contribute to the plan.

c. 2015 curbside recycling project (Dedaimia)

Dedaimia assembled a team for this curbside recycling project. At this stage, the team believes this project will take longer than a year to complete.

Chad Roeder, the manager of Downtown Bloomington Recycling Center, spoke to the EC about the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District's (MCSWMD) goal to build a material recovery facility (MRF). Since Monroe County's recycled materials currently travel a great distance, a MRF would reduce the carbon footprint resulting from transportation. This MRF, however, would not initially serve the City of Bloomington; it would only serve the Solid Waste District. MCSWMD's goals, however, run parallel to what the EC envisions with the curbside recycling program.

MCSWMD tried to get a large MRF built in the past but never received the necessary support. As a result, MCSWMD decided to pursue building a smaller MRF. This MRF would include a pole barn with bailers, allowing materials to be dumped, bailed, and finally resold in the market. \$255,000 was appropriated in the 2015 budget for this project. This project still needs to be approved by the County commissioners.

d. Committee assignments (Dedaimia)

Proposal approved by voice vote to add the Secretary/Treasurer to the Steering Committee: unanimous approval.

In the previous EC meeting, Dedaimia provided a list of organizations to which commissioners would liaise. This committee work is optional and guided by interest. If a commissioner chooses to liaise with one of these organizations, they commit themselves to the work. Each commissioner should view Dedaimia's list and inform her about interests in being assigned or unassigned to any of these groups.

Dedaimia would like a list of previous Eco Heroes themes.

e. Update on plastic bag letter (Chaim)

- Chaim drafted a letter for the commissioners to sign. This letter will be sent to Linda and passed up the chain.
- Dave D. attended the last Bring Your Bag Bloomington (BYBB) meeting and informed the members about the EC's intention to send a letter of support to City Council.
- In the last EC meeting, some commissioners had questions about plastic bag measurements. Dave D. learned that mils is a measurement specific to plastic thickness.

- BYBB added a plastic retail bag (i.e., 2.25 mils or thicker) charge to the ordinance. In previous conversations, BYBB considered these bags to be reusable. Since retail bags are not reused often, BYBB added the charge to the ordinance.
- The ordinance does not include a paper bag ban. Retailers, however, will be required to charge for paper bags.
- Dave D. asked about bags being distributed without a charge during limited promotion events, and that idea has been removed from the ordinance draft. The bags can now be distributed at any time.
- David D. asked questions about retailers keeping the money from plastic bag charges and enforcement. BYBB said enforcement would rely on consumer reporting.
- BYBB formed a subcommittee focused primarily on education and outreach. BYBB plans to teach people how to change their plastic bag habits.

f. Meeting times (Dedaimia)

- Most of the commissioners indicated that they would prefer to keep the same meeting time and weekday since they have already adjusted their lives around these meetings.

New business

a. Proposal to test PCB in city residents (David Parkhurst)

David P. sent an article from a May 1985 issue of the *Indiana Daily Student* (IDS) to the EC. This article indicated that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) tested approximately 140 Bloomington residents' PCB levels and found that some people had elevated levels while others did not. This IDS article also suggested that the CDC wanted to measure every Bloomington resident's PCB blood levels. David P. wants the EC to invite the CDC to Bloomington to perform blood tests on volunteers. David P. will draft a letter to the CDC, inviting and reminding them to test PCB blood levels. The EC would need support from the City Council, the Mayor, the County Health Board, and IU's health department. If no funds are available for this testing, the EC could seek a grant.

These blood tests could have a few benefits. First, tests could show that Bloomington's PCB blood level distribution matched the rest of US and reduce some residents' concerns. Second, if people do have high PCB blood levels, they could take steps to lower those levels. Finally, breastfeeding women could receive assurance that their breast milk is safe for their babies. PCB concentrations are higher in breast milk than in blood, threatening babies' health.

b. Relationship with BCOS (Dedaimia)

The Steering Committee had an open meeting in the Bloomington Cooking School in February. In this meeting, all the commissioners were asked to indicate an environmental initiative they wanted to see completed in Bloomington before they died. In this meeting, the EC decided to clarify its relationship with BCOS.

Dedaimia spoke to Jacqui Bauer from BCOS about merging the two groups. BCOS's mission statement, however, differs from the EC. Dedaimia set up a meeting with the co-chairs of BCOS to talk about overlapping areas and further collaboration between BCOS and the EC.

Committee reports & commissioner announcements

a. Planning Comm & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

- No new development cases were submitted for this month.
- The Fullerton Pike case passed unanimously.
- The only item on next months agenda regard the County parking garage, which is being redesigned to be a story shorter.

b. L4L Natural Landscaping (Diane)

- Diane is still working on the redesign of the L4L sign, which the County commissioners already approved. The County wants their logo on the L4L sign as well. Diane will need more money for these signs.
- Diane to determine whether BEC/L4L can participate on Saturday, June 6th in SNAYL Day.
- Diane voiced her concern about MC-IRIS advocating Roundup® usage since people leaving their workshops often feel they can use herbicides freely without consequence.
- Diane is working on the Salt Creek watershed project with Martha Miller from Monroe County. The project will help people create rain gardens, use best management practices (BMPs), et cetera.

a. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)

- Dedaimia did not attend the last meeting.

- A stoplight will be installed at entrance of the Twin Lakes ball fields. The road will be redesigned at that intersection. There will be a single entrance to the Sportsplex and recreation center. To make these changes, some trees and shrubs will have to be removed. The trees that are cut down will be replaced.
- Regarding the City's goal to perform its own ash borer treatment, IU has certified technicians that the City can use.
- Pear and white pine trees will be removed along Gates Drive for Duke Energy.

b. MPO CAC (Chaim)

- Chaim did not attend this meeting, and MPO CAC will be removed from the committee assignment list.

c. Eco Heroes (David)

- The Eco Heroes ceremony will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, April 25th in the Common Council Chambers. The ceremony will last less than an hour.
- Dave Rollo, the City Council President, will present the awards this year.
- No food will be served at this event.
- Diane will provide flowers to use as decoration.
- An environmental fair will be held in the atrium outside of the Eco Heroes ceremony. L4L is invited to set up a display at this fair.
- Eco Heroes received fewer sponsors this year. As a result, the budget for this year's ceremony is approximately \$300 less than last year.
- Eco Heroes winners will receive bags full of gifts, including chocolate bars donated by Dedaimia and other gifts donated by Dave D.

d. ERAC (Mike)

- David P. took this assignment once Mike became the Vice Chair of the EC.
- The Weimar Lake Dam near Twin Lakes is leaking. At this time, ERAC is trying to decide whether to remove, fix, or rebuild the dam.

e. BCOS (Andrea)

- Since Andrea is the liaison from BCOS, she will report to the EC about what happened at the BCOS meetings rather than Dedaimia.
- BCOS is continuing with the Star reporting.
- BCOS has a new meeting method whereby speakers attend, present on topics, and answer questions.
- BCOS voted in support of the plastic bag ordinance. Andrea will write a letter to the City Council in support of the ordinance. She would like to use the EC's letter of support as a reference.

Chaim: Democracy for Monroe County endorsed John Hamilton for Mayor, Kevin Easton in the 1st district, Dorothy Granger in the 2nd district, Allison Chopra in the 3rd district, and Nicole Bolden for City Clerk. Democracy for Monroe County did not endorse any candidates in the 4th and 5th districts since none of the recommendations received the required 2/3 majority.

Linda: John Hamilton held a press conference and announced his green initiatives. If elected, he will attempt to put solar panels on City Hall. Furthermore, he will make a rule that the City must post where spray chemicals have been used. He wants to eventually phase-out herbicide usage.

Diane: All the mayoral candidates have L4L signs in their yards.

Adjournment

Meeting times

- Environmental Commission: 21 May, 7:00 McCloskey Room
- Planning Committee: 29 April, & 21 May, 4:00 Lemon Conference room
- Tree Commission: 20 May, 9:30 Rose Hill
- BCOS meeting: 12 May, 6:00 McCloskey
- County. Environ. Quality & Sus. Commission: 13 May, 5:00 Court House, Nat Hill
- ERAC: 10 June, RCA Park
- MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: 29 April, 6:30 McCloskey



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES for the meeting, 21 May 2015
City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: David Cohen, Alicia Reinersman, Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin, Kriste Lindberg, Diane Jung, Andy Marrs, Linda Thompson, Dedaimia Whitney, Dave Debikey

Absent: Sean Gorman, Chad Roeder, David Parkhurst

Guests: Andrea Jobe, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); Joe Shaw, Environmental Toxicologist

The EC has two newly appointed commissioners: Andy Marrs and Chad Roeder.

2. Approval of minutes

Unanimous approval of April EC minutes

3. Public comment

Presentation: How a plan gets from the gleam in the developer's eye to a finished building
(Tom Micuda, Planning and Transportation Director)

Tom Micuda presented on the City's development process. A discussion of the steps in that process follows:

1. Project idea

When a developer gets a project idea, they contact the City's Planning and Transportation Department first. Developers come to the office with basic ideas, concept plans, or full plans to learn about zoning regulations (e.g., building height restrictions, space requirements, infrastructural concerns, etc.). Developers generally want to know if their projects are viable before investing time and money.

2. Pre-application for development – 40 days from Planning Commission meeting

The pre-application for development consists of proposing a development plan to the City and asking for formal feedback. This pre-application counts as a formal record of the plan proposal and enters the developer into a review process.

3. Development Review Committee meeting – 33 days from Planning Commission meeting

The Development Review Committee consists of an aggregation of governmental stakeholders in a given development project. This committee typically includes various City department representatives, but County department and Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) representatives often participate as well. These meetings facilitate idea interchanges among relevant government agencies, developers' groups, and Tom's planners. Input from these meetings often leads to project modifications rather than stoppages.

By this stage, developers should start notifying neighbors about upcoming construction. Developers are required

to notify neighbors within two properties of a given project site 21 days prior to Planning Commission meetings. Simultaneous to neighbor notification, developers should have Planning Commission work sessions to get input from the commissioners themselves.

4. Case-filing – 26 days from Planning Commission meeting

Planning subcommittee exposure occurs in this step. Developers bring modified or unmodified development plans to the City. Developers fill out applications, pay filing fees, and submit statements and informational documents. At this stage, the cases are presented to subcommittees (e.g., the Environmental, Bicycle and Pedestrian, and Historic Preservation Commissions).

5. Revisions deadline – 14 days from Planning Commission meeting

Two weeks before the Planning Commission meeting, developers resubmit any project revisions. Developers meet with subcommittees to discuss plan changes, and Linda assembles her report on behalf of recommendations. While Linda creates her report, Tom's office writes the staff report, and a final packet goes to the Planning Commission 4 to 5 days before the meeting. The reports indicate staff members' thoughts about recommendations, views from various boards and commissions, neighbors' feedback, etc.

At this stage, a project is ready for a hearing at a Planning Commission meeting. In these meetings, projects can get approved or denied. Prior to a decision, however, the commission often revisits plans at future meetings.

6. Steps following a decision

If projects get approved, developers must go through a permitting process prior to any construction. Developers take feedback gathered through the entire process and create final construction plans. The County reviews projects according to building codes, and the City evaluates plans for zoning concerns. The Fire Department examines project plans in terms of fire and safety. Housing and Neighborhood Development (HAND) reviews new rental property construction plans, and the Utilities Department assesses plans as well.

4. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

1. House at the corner of Covenanter and Brooks Drive

a) The Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC) might review this case due to a slight encroachment on the floodplain.

- Someone plans to build a house with a circular driveway. One end of the driveway will be in the floodplain, which will require a variance.
- The homebuilder will also ask for a variance to not build a sidewalk along Brooks drive since the street dead-ends and is wooded.
- The house plan includes several green features like solar panels and permeable pavers.

2. Downtown development on College Avenue south of 11th Street

a) An old office building will be converted into 8 two-bedroom units.

- The developer proposed to add a second story to the building.
- Existing landscaping will likely be removed and redone.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping (Diane)

- Diane sent the redesigned L4L sign to the printer.
- When the new signs become available, the EC will have another opportunity for a *Herald Times* article about L4L, expanding support and reach from Monroe County.
- The Center for Sustainable Living and Habitat Stewards paid \$500 toward a sign order. The Monroe County Stormwater Management Board will purchase \$1000 of L4L signs for their own distribution efforts.
- Diane will be working with two SPEA interns from the Monroe County Highway Engineering Department to make L4L flyers and a video public service announcement specific to Monroe County.
- Diane will not be available (and no one else from the EC offered) to table at the Sustaining Nature and Your Land (SNAYL) Day event on June 6th.

- The Stormwater Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Monroe County Stormwater Waste Management District (MCSWMD) want Diane to attend their next meetings to discuss L4L and potential partnerships.

C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)

Dedaimia did not attend the last Tree Commission meeting and had no report.

D. Eco Heroes (David Cohen)

- This year, Eco Heroes got 195 submissions, which was 85 submissions more than last year.
- 20 organizations sponsored the event this year, amounting to approximately \$800 donated in gifts and checks.
 - Eco Heroes got fewer sponsors than last year. Next year, the EC should hold a brainstorming session, developing strategies to get additional sponsors. To get more sponsors in the future, each commissioner could persuade one business to contribute.
- Dave Rollo, City Council President, presented Eco Heroes awards this year rather than Mayor Mark Kruzan.

E. ERAC (David Parkhurst)

David Parkhurst was not present to report.

F. BCOS (Andrea)

- Andrea visited Atlanta and saw a good example of a rooftop garden atop a men's homeless shelter. These men maintain the rooftop garden.
- A speaker from Healthful Food for All attended the last BCOS meeting and discussed ways to make food more affordable for low income individuals.
 - At the end of Farmers' Markets, representatives from Healthful Food for All buy leftover food and donate it to local food pantries. This strategy helps feed disadvantaged individuals and cuts farmers' financial losses.
- The Monroe County Energy Challenge task for May is professionally servicing air conditioning units and have air conditioning units professionally serviced and to clean refrigerator coils. The estimated cost is \$60 with a yearly savings of \$60.
- The Energy Mobile design has been selected, representing the Monroe County Energy Challenge. This vehicle was funded by a grant from an energy company.
- Hoosier to Hoosier started going to IU's residence halls at end of academic school year to gather items left by students.
 - Duke Energy sent 90 volunteers on the first day to collect items, which sped up the collection process.
 - In the BCOS meeting, Jacqui Bauer provided some statistics about last year's Hoosier to Hoosier success: in 2014, volunteers logged 5,000 hours; 172 tons of items were diverted from landfill; and approximately 11,000 shoppers participated in the Hoosier to Hoosier sale, generating \$24,000.
 - This year's Hoosier to Hoosier sale will occur in August.
- Andrea will be resigning from BCOS, effective July 1st.
- On June 8th, the chair, vice chair, and staff coordinator for the EC will meet with the co-chairs and staff coordinators of BCOS to discuss commission similarities and differences.

G. Curbside Recycling Committee (Dedaimia)

- The Curbside Recycling Committee elected Dave Debikey as Chair
- In the May 20th meeting, committee members identified stakeholders and discussed potential survey questions to guide project research.

5. Old business

A. Climate Action Plan (Alicia)

- The Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been renamed the Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) to broaden its scope to include environmental concerns beyond climate change.
- Alicia met with her subcommittee on May 6th to discuss the current BEAP draft.
- The next subcommittee meeting will be on June 2nd and will focus on previous and current data collection efforts.

6. New business

A. Letter regarding PCB testing (Dedaimia on behalf of David Parkhurst)

- David sent a letter draft to a medical sciences faculty member at IU. This person said that if David cannot get funding for testing, they will help apply for grants.
- Each commissioner should read this letter to determine if they would be willing to sign it at the next EC meeting.
 - Commissioners should send revisions to David prior to the next meeting as well.

B. Approve committee list for 2015-16 Handbook

- Unanimously approved as a revision to the handbook
- Dedaimia is revising sections of the handbook one piece at a time
 - David Cohen is not on the Natural Landscaping Committee.
 - Alicia was on the Eco Heroes Committee.

7. Commissioner announcements

- Alicia found a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculator provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). She will forward the link to the commissioners.
- Chaim:
 - Future EC agendas should show Chaim attending Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (MCSWMD) board meetings rather than the MPO CAC meetings.
 - The MCSWMD is struggling to get funding for a materials recovery facility (MRF).
 - MCSWMD wanted to buy bailers initially, but the board did not act. The bailers are no longer available at the same price.
 - The next MCSWMD board meeting is on June 11th at 4:00pm in the Judge Nat U Hill III Meeting Room in the Courthouse.
 - The Mayor's office revised the Bring Your Bag Bloomington (BYBB) letter, and Environmental Commissioners signed the final draft in the meeting.
 - The Food Policy Council and Democracy for Monroe County want to hold meetings to further discuss BYBB.
- Diane: Bug Fest is on Saturday, June 27th. She will bring a volunteer sign-up sheet to the next EC meeting.
- Kriste and Diane are alternating months they attend County Environmental Commission meetings.

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- Environmental Commission: 18 June, 7:00 McCloskey Room, City Hall
- Planning Committee: 3 June, 4:00 Lemon Room
- Tree Commission: 17 June, 9:30 Bryan Park
- BCOS meeting: 9 June, 6:00 McCloskey Room
- County. Environ. Quality & Sus. Commission: 10 June, 5:30 Nat Hill Room, Courthouse
- ERAC: 10 June, 4:30 RCA Park
- MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: 27 May, 6:30 McCloskey Room



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

18 June 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)

Present: Nicholas Kappas, Alicia Reinersman, Dedaimia Whitney, Dave Debikey, Andy Marrs, Chad Roeder, Diane Jung, David Cohen, David Parkhurst, Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin

Absent: Linda Thompson, Kriste Lindberg, Sean Gorman

Guests: Andrea Jobe, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS); Dan McHolm, concerned citizen

The EC has a new commissioner: Nicholas Kappas

2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)

Approved by voice vote; 8 yes, 2 abstentions

3. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)

Dan McHolm

Dan wants a nature-designated area or subsidiary nature park included in the Switchyard Park plans to promote Bloomington's wildlife and local economy. He will send his ideas to Dedaimia via email, and she will present them to the Environmental Commission in a future meeting. If the commission decides to act upon any of these ideas, a formal proposal will be written and sent to City Council.

4. Committee reports & discussions (7:30-8:15 p.m.)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Linda)

The ECPC discussed two petitions:

1. Remodeled building

- It was a consent agreement.

2. House construction on Covenant Drive

- The driveway in the plans is encroaching on the floodplain.
- The ECPC sent a memo to the Plan Commission, recommending a commitment to permeable pavers, with regular maintenance, to compensate for being in the floodplain.
- The ECPC also asked the Plan Commission to preserve scattered trees in the creek's riparian zone.

B. L4L & Natural Landscaping (5 min: Diane)

- The new L4L signs will be ready in time for Bug Fest, which is on June 27th from 10am to 3pm.
- Unanimous approval of L4L flyers for residents in the Monroe Lake watershed.
 - Diane designed these flyers with the interns from the Monroe County Stormwater Services.

August 3, 2015

- Kriste and Diane created a L4L PowerPoint Presentation for the Monroe County Fair a couple years ago. This presentation can be reused at future events.

C. Tree Commission (5 min: Dedaimia)

- Approximately 160 street trees will be treated for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) this year.
 - Bartlett Tree Experts will perform these treatments.
 - Cliff Sadof, an entomologist from Purdue University, will test a new injection method on Bloomington's ash trees as well.
 - The current method uses a 2-year treatment, and he will test a 3-year treatment with less chemicals.
- Approximately 250 City trees have been planted this year, and another 160 trees will be planted this fall. 160 dead and suffering ash, white pine, and maple trees were removed this year.
- The Urban Forester, Lee Huss, got a new budget. He will purchase a Toro Dingo, which is a small track, walk-behind, skid-steered machine with a variety of attachments.

D. ERAC (5 min: David Parkhurst)

David did not attend the meeting and had no report.

E. BCOS (5 min: Andrea)

- Bloomington's STAR Communities program has new leadership. The program needs additional participants as well.
- The Monroe County Energy Challenge received the new Energy Mobile. This mobile will enable the group to educate the community and provide energy-efficient resources (e.g., LED bulbs).
- The Energy Fair will be on June 27th at the Farmers' Market.
- Andrea wrote a letter supporting Bring Your Bag Bloomington (BYBB) on behalf of BCOS. BCOS approved the letter.
- After 4 years of running the Middle Way House Rooftop Garden, Andrea is resigning. If interested in leading in the Rooftop Garden, contact Andrea.
- Andrea is resigning from BCOS, effective July 1st, and Jana McGee will attend future EC meetings when she is available.

F. MCSWMD Citizens Advisory Committee (5 min: Chaim)

- Chaim wants to change his committee assignment to the MCSWMD Board Meetings, so he can get more inside information. He needs to discuss this assignment change with Linda.
- The Citizens Advisory Committee discussed budgets and promoted the Green Business Network.
- MCSWMD needs roll-off trucks for the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The board voted on leasing a couple trucks, and the motion was defeated. Chad Roeder offered a possible explanation: the District wants control over the roll-off containers used at recycling centers throughout the county. Not having full access to leased roll-off trucks would make it problematic to transport containers.

5. Old business (8:15-8:45 p.m.)

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (5 min: Alicia)

- Alicia held a BEAP subcommittee meeting on June 2nd to discuss the data she gathered for the BEAP.
- The next subcommittee meeting will be on June 29th at 12pm in the Dunlap Conference Room. This meeting will focus on BEAP draft revisions.

August 3, 2015

B. Recycling Subcommittee (15 min: David Debikey)

- Dave met with Darryl Neher, mayoral candidate and City Council member, to discuss getting further subcommittee support. Darryl requested that he gather recycling waste management information since he could get the information faster as a City Council member.
 - According to Darryl, waste management loses \$1.8 million in Bloomington annually. To improve cost-effectiveness, he suggested following the County model, which uses automated pick-up times and incorporates monthly receptacle charges. He also suggested applying for grants.
- A SPEA environmental economics capstone course is being developed. This course will look specifically at Bloomington's current recycling system and develop ways to improve it.
- The County approved \$255,000 for the MRF in 2015.
- The next recycling subcommittee meeting is July 8th.

C. Recycling information report (15 min: David Cohen)

- David drafted a recycling presentation for the public outreach portion of the curbside recycling project.
- David emailed a copy of this presentation to all the commissioners. Each commissioner should review this presentation and send him revision suggestions.
- Stump David: Dedaimia asked each commissioner to challenge David by bringing in items with ambiguous recycling statuses. Commissioners should keep thinking of items to stump David in preparation for the public's questions.

D. Letter to CDC (5 min: David Parkhurst)

- Unanimous approval of the letter.
- Unanimous approval of sending letters to the Mayor, the head of the IU School of Public Health, County Board of Public Health, and City Council, asking for their support.
- Unanimous approval of sending a letter to Senator Donnelly, requesting his support.
- Diane suggested that that the EC contact the media for a press release.

6. New business (8:45-9:00) p.m.)

A. Meeting with BCOS leadership team (Dedaimia)

- Mike, Linda, and Dedaimia met with representatives from BCOS: Jacqui Bauer, Jeff Jewel, and Jana McGee. In this meeting, they discussed their projects and ways to further collaborate with each other. They also talked about combining commissions. Although this idea is worth investigating, they agreed to halt this discussion until a new mayor takes office. In the meantime, they decided to at least have joint meetings 2 to 3 times per year.

B. Speakers for future meetings (brainstorm)

- Dedaimia would like to have presenters at most EC meetings, so commissioners and citizens alike can always learn at the meetings. Commissioners should think about potential topics they would like discussed at meetings.
- Alicia wants to learn more about the effects of common pesticides (e.g., glyphosate) on the environment.

7. Commissioner announcements (9:00-9:15 p.m.)

The EC will ordering name badges to use at future events. Alicia and Dedaimia visited the Engraving and Stamp Center in Bloomington to see samples. Three materials are available for engraving: aluminum, brass, and plastic. Since the plastic is not recyclable, Alicia and Dedaimia prefer the metals, which are recyclable. Due to its recyclable status and durability, Alicia and Dedaimia like the aluminum material. The name badges will have magnetic clips to avoid tearing clothes, but commissioners can opt

August 3, 2015

for normal pins if they prefer. When commissioners resign, they must return their badges to the commission.

- Dedaimia is assembling a list of items the Commission could purchase. Next month, the EC will discuss the new EPA PCB report.
 - Nick started working with the Adopt a Stream program. Participants are being trained in sampling techniques, and they will start gathering watershed data over the next year.
 - Andy: Bloomingfoods will have another member forum on Monday, June 29th from 7-9pm in the Convention Center.
 - Dave P: The Bloomington Food Policy Council is holding meetings to produce an action plan.
 - Mike: New members need to update their biographies on the website. Send those biographies to Linda.
8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 16 July, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 1 July, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 15 July, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 14 July, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MoCo Environmental Quality & Sus. Commission: 8 July, 5:30 p.m., Nat Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 12 August, 4:30 p.m., Griffy
- G. MPO CAC: 24 July, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD CAC: 16 July, 5:15 p.m., McCloskey Room



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

16 July 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: Linda Thompson, David Cohen, Nick Kappas, Chaim Julian, David P, Chad Roeder, Alicia Reinersman, Dedaimia Whitney, Kriste Lindberg, Diane Jung

Absent: Dave Debikey, Mike Litwin

Guest: Steven Hale, Food Policy Council

2. Approval of minutes

June minutes unanimously approved by voice vote

3. Public comment

No public comment

4. Presentation: "Food Policy Actions" (Stephen Hale)

- In this presentation, Stephen Hale discussed the Food Policy Council, the Food Charter, and next steps.
 - One of those next steps includes talking to groups like the EC throughout the community for input and support.
- The Food Policy Council exists to increase and preserve access to sustainably produced, locally grown, healthful food for all residents in Monroe and surrounding counties.
- According to Stephen Hale, the current food system faces numerous issues, including antibiotic-use, chemical-use, monoculture crops, transportation, increased emissions, soil degradation, adverse health effects (e.g., type 2 diabetes), and waste (i.e., 30-50% of what we grow gets wasted). Furthermore, meat consumption is higher 25% higher than 50 years ago. To support these meat consumption rates, 1/3 of the plants we grow feed the animals we eat.
- For the purpose of that charter, "local" refers to Bloomington and Monroe County. Only about 2% of our food is grown locally.
- The food system includes many parts: production, processing, distribution, consumption, and waste.
 - A good food system provides enough nutritious, healthy food for everyone.
 - The Food Policy Council promotes a three-pronged system that (1) uses sustainable methods, (2) promotes local food, and (3) expands food literacy.

5. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

1. Upland Brewery on 11th Street

January 13, 2016

- Upland recently purchased a house, which was formerly a law office. This house and one of their existing storage buildings will be torn down to construct a 6,000ft² sour beer brewing facility.
 - Because the former law office property will be changing uses, Upland has to bring their entire site into compliance with the UDO.
 - Upland is not asking for any variances.
 - The parking lot will be repaved and striped, providing 63 parking spots.
 - Two of the 11th Street entrances will be removed in lieu of one proper entrance.
 - Upland will be creating a full landscaping plan.
2. Echo Park on Walnut Street Pike
- Echo Park proposed an apartment complex development, which will be marketed to young professionals.
 - The site contains 10 wooded acres with numerous environmental constraints: sinkholes, steep slopes, and riparian buffers. Echo Park is not asking for any variances.
 - A walking trail and dog park will be constructed on the protected site.
 - The street trees will have to be smaller than typically required due to overhead power lines.
 - The ECPC recommends that Echo Park use local limestone rather than cast stone.
 - Because the rooftops will be flat, the ECPC also recommends cool roofs or solar panels to be incorporated into the plans.
- B. L4L Natural Landscaping (Diane and Kriste)
- Bug Fest went well. Alicia and David Cohen helped Diane the whole time. During the festival, they gave away about 22 L4L signs. Since then, Diane has given away another 15+ signs.
 - The *Herald Times* published an article on July 10th, featuring L4L. Dylan Sinn, an IU intern, wrote the article and represented L4L accurately. He did not, however, mention the Monroe County Stormwater Services in the article.
 - The manager of Hallmark Apartments approached Diane and Kriste with an interest in L4L.
 - Diane's third mason bee house design has been very successful. She wants to revise the design instructions and make them available to the public. She will bring the revised instructions to the next meeting.
 - Diane has a PowerPoint presentation about L4L, which she is excited to present in the future.
 - L4L is getting popular and might need a larger committee.
 - Kriste arranged a meeting between the City of Bloomington Utilities Department and Diane to see where the two programs can work together.
 - Utilities is developing an Adopt a Stream program in concert with the Parks and Recreation Department, focusing on private properties.
 - Michael Vallient, an IU Office of Service Learning employee, expressed an interest in getting classes involved with L4L.
 - Utilities is considering the possibility of utilizing more social media regarding stormwater education and outreach, including the Adopt-a-Stream program.
- C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)
- The Tree Commission changed the meeting data to July 22nd at 9:30am at the North Shelter at Bryan Park. Dedaimia cannot attend this meeting, but David Parkhurst might attend in her place.
- D. ERAC (David Parkhurst)

January 13, 2016

There was no meeting this month, so David had no report.

E. BCOS (BCOS representative)

The EC lost its BCOS representative when Andrea Jobe resigned. Nick will reach out to her to see who might be able to take her place.

F. MCSWMD Citizens Advisory Committee discussion re CAC vs BOD (Chaim)

- Chaim attended both the MCSWMD Board and CAC meetings.
- In the board meeting, members discussed leasing roll-off trucks to visit various recycling centers and the materials recovery facility (MRF). Although these trucks would save the District money, the Board voted against leasing the trucks.
- In the CAC meeting, members discussed the BYBB ordinance. They drafted a letter of support. One person objected to voting because he did not read the document. The CAC voted on the condition that this person would read the letter and vote "yes" at a future meeting.

6. Old business

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (5 min: Alicia)

Alicia had two productive subcommittee meetings on June 29th. The next meeting will be on Friday, July 24th in the Dunlap Conference Room.

B. Recycling Subcommittee (Andy)

- Andy received the revision suggestions for the downtown recycling survey, which will go to residents and businesses on the Square, Kirkwood, and 4th Street.
- Prior to sending the survey out to the public, it must get approved by Alexa Lopez in the Mayor's office. Linda will send Andy her questions about the Recycling Subcommittee to aid in this process.

C. Letter to CDC (5 min: David Parkhurst)

- Last meeting, the EC took up three propositions: (1) accept the letter, (2) send the letter to local groups/people for endorsement, and (3) send the letter to Senator Donnelly for endorsement.
- The results of these endorsement requests should go into the final letter to the CDC to give it more power.
- David will add a sample paragraph to the letter reflecting these future endorsements.
- The Mayor already approved this drafted letter.

7. New business

A. EPA 5-year report (all)

The report provided good news; the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) remediation efforts are working.

B. Committee responsibilities (Dedaimia)

Andy is interested in chairing an EC education committee to promote various projects going on in the City. Diane, Alicia, and Nick would like to participate.

8. Commissioner announcements (9:00-9:15 p.m.)

- Nick adopted a stream through the Park's department. He will send out an email to see if anyone is interested in doing some work.
- Chaim: Democracy for Monroe County will be supporting BYBB.

January 13, 2016

- Alicia has two red maple tree saplings she wants to give away. Contact her if interested in taking the saplings.
- Dedaimia's chickens are going to be featured on a TV special.

9. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 20 August, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 29 July, & 20 August, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 19 August, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 11 August, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MoCo Environmental Quality & Sus. Com.: 12 August, 5:30 p.m., Nat Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 12 August, 4:30 p.m., Griffy
- G. MPO CAC: 26 August, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD CAC: 20 July, 5:15 p.m., McCloskey Room



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

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MINUTES

20 August 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson, Nick Kappas, Chad Roeder, David Cohen, Chaim Julian, Dave Debikey, Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Andy Marrs

Absent: Kriste Lindberg, Alicia Reinersman

Guests: Kathy Spiaga, concerned citizen; Julia Rogers, Duncan Campbell; Jana McGee, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)

- Approval postponed until next month

3. Public comment (7:10-7:15 p.m.)

4. Presentation: "Cultural Performance: Leveraging Embodied Energy", Duncan Campbell. The talk will address the role of preservation (the recovery of embodied energy in existing buildings) in economic and social performance. (7:15-7:30 p.m.)

"Embodied energy" refers to the energy used in raw material acquisition, material production, and building assemblage. Every building begins with an environmental debt. For instance, a typical 50,000ft² building embodies about 80 million BTUs of energy even when unused. Newer, "efficient" buildings still cause environmental debts that, on average, take between 35 and 50 years to pay off before becoming truly efficient. Rather than demolishing and reconstructing, developers should renovate buildings to limit further environmental debts. Existing buildings currently outnumber new buildings in the US by more than 100 to 1. Greening these buildings can reduce GHG emissions and bring cultural improvements (e.g., new schools, community art projects, festivals, etc.).

5. Committee reports & discussions (7:30-8:15 p.m.)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Linda)

The ECPC discussed two cases relevant to the EC:

1. Echo Park

- The Echo Park plan is going to the second hearing.
- Echo Park made no major plan modifications after the last meeting.
 - i. Echo Park removed the dog park and trail proposed for the nearby protected land from its plans.
 - ii. Echo Park is considering incorporating stormwater management, tree preservation, and light pollution measures into their plan.

January 13, 2016

2. Elmore-Orego

- They plan to build a 4-story building between 5th and 6th Street, adjacent to the B-Line Trail.
 - i. The first story will be used for parking and commercial purposes.
 - ii. The 2nd and 3rd stories will have apartments.
 - iii. The 4th story will have penthouse suites.
 - iv. This building will have a limestone exterior.
- The petition was originally approved in 2013, but the permission lapsed. Since Elmore-Orego plans to build soon, they requested permission again.
- The ECPC already sent Elmore-Orego a memo, requesting green building features and recycling facilities.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping (5 min: Diane)

- Diane has not attended the Farmers' Market for the last two weeks.
- About 50 of the new L4L signs have been given away already.
- Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church asked the EC to write a letter to the church, demanding a Roundup ban.
 - The church members wrote their own letter.

C. Tree Commission (5 min: David P. and Dedaimia)

- Historic houses were moved on East 8th Street to make way for new fraternity housing.
 - 13 mature trees were removed to facilitate this transition.
- There will be new, angled parking on 10th Street and College Avenue.
 - New parking construction necessitated street tree removal.
- The City treats between 20 and 30% of its ash trees, protecting against the Emerald Ash Borer.
 - Some of these trees were treated for free by Chris Sadoff from Purdue University.
- The Tree Care Manual got updated.

D. ERAC (5 min: David Parkhurst)

- ERAC held its last meeting on August 12th at Griffy Lake. In this meeting, participants discussed water quality data prior to draining and refilling the lake. The person sampling the lake measured high nutrient levels, likely coming from a connecting stream. That person also observed large quantities of milfoil and pondweed in the lake.
 - 2,4-D, an herbicide, might be used to control pondweed growth.
- ERAC discussed invasive plant reduction needs, especially in the Butler, Ferguson, and Miller-Showers parks.
- The Warner Dam near the Wapahani River is hazardous.
 - The Department of Natural Resources worries about it breaking and flooding. The City is under pressure to repair or remove the dam.
 - Nick will report on the dam's status in the next EC meeting.

E. BCOS (5 min: Jana McGee)

- Jana, the co-chair of BCOS, will be the EC's new BCOS representative.
- The Hoosier to Hoosier sale will be in the warehouse on Rogers Street on Saturday, August 22nd.
- BCOS is making progress on the Star Communities update. The intern working on the project made a useful presentation, which can be obtained from either Jacqui Bauer or Jana.

January 13, 2016

- There will be a Timebank meeting at the Monroe County Public Library in Room 2c on August, 22nd at 11am.
 - Timebank is a skill-sharing group.
 - The meeting will be an informational potluck.
- IU will hold a sustainability panel on September 24th at 5:00pm in the IMU.
- The IU Research and Teach Preserve offers classes for environmental educators. Go to <http://www.indiana.edu/~preserve/events.shtml> for more information.

F. MCSWMD (5 min: Chaim & Chad)

- The board voted against constructing the proper footing beneath the concrete slab of a pre-existing building for the materials recovery facility (MRF).
- Executive Director, Larry Barker, is retiring from the board.
- The CAC will write a letter supporting Bring Your Bag Bloomington.

G. Recycling Subcommittee (5 min: Dave Debikey)

- The last meeting focused on fine-tuning the details of Justin Ross's SPEA environmental economics course.
- Dave contacted Adam Wasson about the recycling survey. Adam wanted to make sure the survey questions would provide relevant recycling data.

6. Old business (8:15-8:30 p.m.)

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (5 min: Alicia)

- Alicia is on vacation. Dedaimia wants her to send an electronic copy of the BEAP draft to the commissioners.
 - Commissioners should focus on higher-order, content-related concerns while reading the draft.

B. Letter to CDC update (5 min: David Parkhurst & Linda)

- The letter to the CDC is in final form.
- The letters to the 4 other people, requesting their endorsements, are finalized, but they need to go through the City's legal system again prior to being mailed.

7. New business (8:30-8:45 p.m.)

A. BEC web page content (Linda)

- The City will launch a new website soon.
- The City will also impose stricter rules about the content boards and commissions can post on their webpages.
 - The EC needs to evaluate its webpage to determine which content to remove.

8. Commissioner announcements (8:45-9:00 p.m.)

David P.: The Monroe County Library has a copy of the documentary, *Merchants of Doubt*, which is based on the book by Naomi Oreskes. This documentary discusses how prominent, Cold War Era scientists got the impression that government regulation was a slippery slope to communism.

Dave D.: The Downtown Bloomington Inc. Board met at the ballroom on Fountain Square and spoke with Ron Walker, the vice president of the CFC. Ron will help the recycling subcommittee reach out to his tenants, who represent a large portion of the downtown area.

The documentary, *True Cost*, is on Netflix. This film discusses the environmental effects of the fashion industry. The fashion industry is second to the oil industry as the world's largest pollutant.

January 13, 2016

David C.: David's internship with the EC has concluded. IU hired him as a teaching assistant for a risk management course.

Chad: The Downtown Recycling Center helped the City recycle numerous materials resulting from Council Chamber renovations.

Nick: Nick just received his Hoosier River Watch certification.

Dedaimia: Bloomingfoods is hiring a new general manager. Contact Dedaimia with any recommendations for this position.

Andy: Andy enrolled in the Citizens Academy.

9. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 17 September, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 2 September, & 17 September, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 19 August, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 8 September, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MoCo Environmental Quality & Sus. Com.: 9 Sept., 5:30 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 7 October, 4:30 p.m., Bryan Park, Henderson Shelter
- G. MPO CAC: 23 September, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD Board: 10 September, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

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MINUTES

17 September 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: Dave Debikey, Nick Kappas, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Andy Marrs, David Parkhurst, Alicia Reinersman, Chad Roeder, Dedaimia Whitney

Absent: Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Linda Thompson

Guests: Rhonda Baird, permaculture teacher and consultant; Rebecca Fiedler, concerned citizen; Mary Allman, concerned citizen; Ramsey Mareek, concerned citizen

2. Approval of minutes

July and August minutes approved unanimously.

3. Public comment

Rebekah Fiedler

- Rebekah requests that the EC consider joining a local effort that brings many organizations together in an effort to bring back the population of monarch butterflies, perhaps through Lawns for Life.
 - Monarch populations have declined by about 90% over the last two decades.
- Dedaimia advised Rebecca to draft a formal proposal, providing a brief introduction to the issue and a bulleted list of recommended city actions.
 - Monarchs need milkweed to survive. The EC could advise the city to coordinate mowing efforts, provide information at Farmers' Markets, help identify milkweed patches, offer monarch management courses, etc.
- Once Dedaimia receives Rebecca's proposal, she will add a slot to the agenda for a commissioner vote. Pending approval, Dedaimia will send this proposal to the relevant parties (e.g., the Mayor's Office and City Council.)

4. Presentation: Rhonda Baird, "Permaculture"

- Permaculture is an ethical design system that integrates humans with the natural world. Permaculture seeks to use a systems-thinking matrix to create environments and human cultures that regenerate the landscape.
- Permaculture espouses three core ethics: (1) care for the land, (2) care for people, and (3) limits to consumption and distribution of surplus (i.e., fair share).
- Permaculture began as a critique of industrial agriculture, articulating the need for "permanent culture" and policies surrounding land tenure.
 - Permaculture creates better climatic conditions by conserving soil and improving water circulation.
- Through design, permaculture incorporates the society, economy, and environment in new ways.

January 13, 2016

- Permaculture design begins with the aims or ethics of the client. Secondly, permaculture design applies natural patterns that work with the local culture. Thirdly, strategies that can be implemented long-term must be developed. Finally, maintenance tools and techniques must be developed to ensure the long-term success of permaculture.
- The Center for Sustainable Living (CSL) recently changed its board; the leadership invited Rhonda to transform it into a permaculture institute for the region.
 - The CSL is the primary institute for education, research, and community support.
- Municipalities are becoming interested in what permaculture has to offer.

5. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

Linda was not present to report, and Mike had no updates.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping (Diane & Kriste)

- Diane was absent, and Kriste had no report.

C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)

- Federal tree care manual guidelines were just released.
 - Lee Huss wants the Tree Commission to revise its manual, using the new federal template.
- A rotting, 200-to-300-year-old oak tree will be removed from Seminary Square. Due to its age, this tree stands as a community monument.
 - Lee Huss wants the EC to have a memorial service for the tree before Christmas.
 - A cross-section of the tree could be polished to use in celebration of Indiana's bicentennial next year.

D. ERAC (David Parkhurst)

- ERAC did not meet this month.

E. Recycling (Dave Debikey)

- The recycling survey is being revised.
- The recycling committee met with the SPEA environmental economics class, which is progressing well with research.
- The recycling committee will visit an Indianapolis materials recovery facility (MRF).
 - Dave will send out a Doodle poll to schedule the MRF visit.

F. MCSWMD (Chaim & Chad)

Board:

- Tom McGlassen spoke about the Monroe County Landfill closure. The county needs "assurance funding" to ensure proper landfill maintenance.
- The board and staff are revising the Executive Director job description.
 - The board appointed Scott Walker as the Interim Executive Director.
- The CAC voted in support of the upcoming single-use plastic bag ordinance.
- Scott Wells, a former county council member, spoke about the money owed to Republic for transportation and disposal costs throughout the district.
 - He mentioned that this debt would be paid with 2015 MRF funds.

CAC:

- Steve Acres, a former chair of the CAC and current IU RPS staff member, discussed IU's food waste and composting program.
 - Composted waste goes to Hilltop Garden; otherwise, IU would have to get a permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

January 13, 2016

- He also discussed IU's new athletics and composting program, which encourages athletes to compost food scraps.
 - The cafeterias on campus compost pre-consumer food waste, but they hope to compost post-consumer waste as well.
 - IU is investigating ways to improve their composting system, using signs and other techniques.
- Steve Volan, MCSWMD council and City Council member, spoke about job requirements for the director.
 - A revision of the 2008 description is up for adoption. This revision includes a requirement to implement a MRF.

G. BCOS (Jana)

- The CSL will hold a Cut Your Carbon Workshop on October 14th at 7:00pm at 245 West Grimes Lane.
- The Monroe County Energy Challenge will offer 2 Energy Ambassador training sessions:
 - September 23rd, 4-7pm in the Hooker Rm at City Hall
 - October 2, 1-4pm in Hodge Hall Rm 205 on IU campus
- STAR Communities update: there will be a presentation on the "Economy and Jobs" section of the report at the next BCOS meeting.
- The Hoosier to Hoosier sale raised \$45,000, which was about \$11,000 more than last year. Volunteers clocked over 1,100 hours; and the sale diverted about 45 tons from the landfill
- City council is considering supporting Bring Your Bag Bloomington.

6. Old business

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (Alicia)

- Alicia passed out copies of the BEAP draft. She wants commissioner feedback by September 29th for her subcommittee meeting.

B. Weimer Lake Dam report (Nicholas)

- The dam has structural deficiencies. The next dam inspection is in 2018, and the City has no active permits to remove the dam.
 - If the dam collapses, nearby wildlife will be threatened, and the nearby mountain bike park will be damaged.
- The Environmental Protection Agency classifies Weimar Lake as impaired.
 - Fish in Weimer Lake contain detectable levels of mercury in their tissue.

7. Commissioner announcements

Kriste: The county and Department of Natural resources cleaned up stormwater at Lake Monroe on September 12th.

Nick: Nick became an official Hoosier River Watcher.

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 15 October, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 30 September, & 15 October, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 28 October, 9:30 a.m., Rose Hill
- D. BCOS meeting: 13 October, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MoCo Environmental Quality & Sus. Com.: 14 October, 5:30 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 7 October, 4:30 p.m., Bryan Park, Henderson Shelter
- G. MPO CAC: 15 October, 5:15 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD Board: 8 October, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

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MINUTES

15 October 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)

Present: Alicia Reinersman, Chaim Julian, Dave Debikey, David Parkhust, Kriste Lindberg, Nick Kappas, Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson

Absent: Andy Marrs, Mike Litwin, Chad Roeder, Diane Jung

Guests: Allison LeMay, SPEA recycling capstone student; Jana McGee, BCOS Co-Chair; Rhonda Baird, Center for Sustainable Living; Larry Barker

2. Approval of minutes

September EC minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. Public comment

No public comment

4. Presentation: Larry Barker, "Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)"

- MRFs process, package, and bail recyclables into resalable products.
- Two types of MRFs exist: clean stream and waste stream MRFs.
 - In clean stream MRFs, recycled materials do not enter the waste stream.
 - Clean recyclables are valuable because they are not contaminated; clean recyclable prices range from \$85-110 per ton.
 - Waste stream MRFs separate recyclables from trash.
 - "Birdbaths" clean these recyclables and increase their value.
 - Monroe County does clean-stream recycling without a MRF.
- Bloomington's recycling rate is about 36% currently. Bloomington does not offer recycling services to apartment complexes with more than 4 units.
- Recycling produces jobs in and outside the community.
 - Per 10,000 tons of waste, the recycling industry produces 36 jobs, compared to 6 jobs for landfilling and 1 job for incinerating.
- Bloomington's trash travels 62 miles to the Sycamore Ridge Landfill south of Terre Haute.
- Monroe County had a proposal for the last 5 years to build a MRF. This MRF would initially serve the District, but it would expand to include IU and the city.

5. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

- The Planning Committee received no new development petitions this month.
- The Tech Park plans have been replaced with residential development plans that will be twice the size of Smallwood Plaza.
- House at Moore's Pike and St. Rd. 446

January 13, 2016

- The driveway in the plans has to cross a floodplain, riparian buffer, and creek.
 - Plans call for filling in the FEMA floodplain, culverting the creek, and disregarding the riparian buffer, which requires a variance.
 - The EC suggests that a bridge be built over the floodplain and creek.
- B. L4L Natural Landscaping (Diane and Kriste)
- Diane was absent and had no report.
 - Kriste wants to work on a possible MLK grant to fund a mobile monarch butterfly display for Bloomington High School North.
 - Rebekah Fiedler and Mary Allman are also involved in this project.
 - Kriste will be the point person on this grant.
 - The EC has until November 9th to get all the materials together for the grant application.
- C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)
- David Parkhurst's wife, a retired forester, spoke with Lee Huss about the 200-year-old oak tree in Seminary Square.
 - She did not think the tree needed to be removed because it had healthy limbs.
 - Lee Huss had professional surveys done of the tree, which showed the tree might last up to 50 years; however, a strong wind storm could take down the tree at any time.
 - The City considers this tree a liability, so it will be removed.
 - The City already put the lumber up for bid, and a ring of the tree has been requested in that bid.
 - This ring would be used to create a timeline of Bloomington.
- D. ERAC (David Parkhurst)
- Nick attended the meeting in David's place.
 - Barbara Restle resigned from ERAC.
 - Mick Renneisen, the director of the Parks and Recreation Department, discussed the herbicide study committee.
 - This committee created a pesticide-use policy, delineated by product type, application frequency, quantity, and location.
 - The EC has a week-long deadline to get comments to the committee.
 - ERAC wants funding to spot-treat invasive species.
 - Nick wants to plan an EC field trip to the Wapehani Mountain Bike Park.
- E. Recycling (Dave Debikey)
- The recycling subcommittee continues to work with the SPEA capstone course.
 - Students presented their project progress report recently.
 - The downtown recycling survey is being revised.
 - The recycling subcommittee cannot move forward until they receive survey, city budgeting, and SPEA capstone information.
 - Recycling subcommittee members will visit an Indianapolis MRF tomorrow, October 16, 2015.
- F. MCSWMD (5 min: Chaim & Chad)
- Huntley, a Bloomington food composting operator, presented at the CAC meeting.
 - He only works with IU currently, but he does not receive much compostable waste.
 - The Board is still drafting the executive director position description. The salary will be \$57,000.

January 13, 2016

G. BCOS (5 min: Jana)

- The Monroe County Energy Challenge Education Committee will hold a professional development workshop on October 20th. This workshop will be open to the first 44 K-12 teachers who register.
- A Bike City Smart Training session will be offered soon.
 - Contact Jacqui Bauer or Jana McGee for more information.
- The Monroe County Energy Challenge had 100 assessments this week, and the NCCC will be doing home assessments until November 6.
- Jana wants to join the EC on field trips.
- Jacqui Bauer recommended two books: *The Sprawl Repair Kit* and *Retrofitting Suburbia*.

6. Old business (8:45-9:00 p.m.)

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (15 min: Alicia)

- Commissioners should send their BEAP feedback to Alicia as soon as possible.
- The BEAP subcommittee met on September 29th and discussed revision suggestions.
- The next BEAP subcommittee will be on October 27th at noon in the Dunlap Conference Room. In this meeting, commissioners will discuss new BEAP revisions.

7. Commissioner announcements (9:00:-9:30 p.m.)

- David P.: The mayor declined to endorse the CDC letter. Linda recently received the health department's endorsement.
- Nick: Another Hoosier River Watch training session will be held on November 20th at Karst Park.

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 19 November, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 28 October, & 12 November, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 28 October, 9:30 a.m., Rose Hill
- D. BCOS meeting: 10 November, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. EQUAS Com.: 9 December, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 9 December, 4:30 p.m., Parks
- G. MPO CAC: 21 October, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD Board: 12 November, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse



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MINUTES

19 November 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson, Dave Debikey, Andy Marrs, Diane Jung, Chad Roeder, Mike Litwin, Kriste Lindberg, David Parkhurst, Chaim Julian, Alicia Reinersman, Nick Kappas

Absent: All the commissioners were present.

Guests: Rebekah Fiedler, citizen; Katie Glasmire, citizen; John Smith, citizen

2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)

Approved by voice vote; 9 yes, 1 abstention

3. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)

John Smith

John thanked the EC for drafting a letter to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). David P. noted that the Monroe County Board of Health will consider endorsing the letter in their January meeting and that the IU School of Public health already endorsed the letter.

John reminded the EC of its mission statement. He stated that to follow mission statement, the EC must research, conduct field studies, and sample. He said that when the EC learns about the presence of contaminants, they must develop plans for prevention, abatement, and control. He argued that the EC must also publicize this information, so citizens can get informed, ask questions, and offer advice.

Rebekah Fiedler

Rebecca wants the monarch issue on the next EC agenda. She will send her proposal to Dedaimia.

4. Presentation:

Falyn Owens: "Urban Deer Conflict: A Growing Issue for Communities across the Eastern U.S."

- Falyn Owens is the District Biologist for 9 counties in Indiana and the Lead Wildlife Biologist for Monroe County.
- "Deer are second only to humans in their impact on a forest ecosystem. They can, and will, dictate what other animals will survive there." - Dr. Gary Alt

The current deer population problem stems from a few issues. Firstly, does can birth between one and three fawns each year for their entire lifespans, which typically lasts 12 years. Secondly, most natural predators have been extirpated from Indiana aside from coyotes, which only threaten fawns. Thirdly, deer habituate to urban environments well due to high food availability from landscaping and feeders.

January 13, 2016

Large deer populations threaten habitats, the economy, and human health. Forests with large deer populations often have no habitats below deer's 6-foot browse line. Deer harm the economy by damaging property and crops, which cost money to repair. Deer threaten human health by causing automobile accidents and carrying ticks that can spread Lyme disease.

Many deer management strategies exist. Nonlethal options include temporary repellants and deterrents; trapping and relocating, which is expensive, has a high mortality rate, and spreads disease; immunocontraceptives and surgical sterilization, which has been proven infeasible and ineffective; planting deer-resistant plants; banning deer feeding, and installing fences. Lethal deer management options include trapping and euthanizing, which is expensive and requires qualified professionals; sharpshooting, an expensive but effective option; and controlled hunts relying on vetted hunters.

5. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

Two cases are on the agenda next month:

1. Apartment complex off West 17th Street

- The complex will have 7 buildings containing 44 3-bedroom units.
- The developers want a variance to build a type I instead of a type II buffer yard. With this variance, the developers would construct a 10-foot rather than a 15-foot vegetated buffer.
- This land is currently zoned for commercial purposes and requires a variance for residential construction. The ECPC does not oppose this variance.

2. Certified Technology Park Trades District development

- Motion to write a letter opposing the Trades District development:
Approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Dedaimia will draft the letter and circulate it to the commissioners. Send points to Dedaimia via email.

A developer plans to build apartments, offices, and a parking garage on about 6 acres of the Technology Park. This development would be called the "Trades District."

The Trades District contradicts the Certified Technology Park Master Plan, which promoted sustainability and green features. The City bought this land to ensure any developments followed the Master Plan.

The Trades District developers request three variances:

1. Landscaping - they do not want to include the required amount of trees and bushes.
2. Pervious surface coverage - they want more impervious surface coverage than allowed.
3. Change in building entrance for their parking garage.

The plans for the Trades District have been sent to the Planning Department, and the Plan Commission will hear this case on December 7th.

B. Natural Landscaping Committee (Diane)

- The Natural Landscaping Committee will not pursue the MLK monarch display idea due to a lack of organization and potential participation. Diane suggests that the Bloomington Habitat Stewards move forward with this project.
- New idea for MLK project: assembling seed packets or seed bombs filled with plant seeds essential for monarchs and other butterflies.
 - Diane hopes to assemble between 500 and 1,000 seeds packets or bombs to distribute either on MLK Day or at the Farmers' Market.

January 13, 2016

- Diane will work on a grant application to fund this project.

C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)

- A citizen read a statement about removing the oak tree in Seminary Square.
- The City wounded the tree by parking construction equipment under it while constructing the plaza.

D. ERAC (David Parkhurst)

- ERAC did not meet this month.

E. Recycling (Dave Debikey)

- The recycling committee did not meet this month.

F. MCSWMD (Chaim & Chad)

1. CAC

- Kevin Huntly, the owner of Good Earth, LLC on Empire Mill Road, spoke to the CAC. He will be receiving more food waste to compost - mostly pre-consumer waste.
 - Chaim will ask Kevin to speak to the EC at some point in the future to describe the process he went through and difficulties he experienced with composting.

2. Board:

- The Board raised the salary for the director position because they are capping the compensatory time.
 - The Board wants to hire someone willing to investigate the feasibility of a materials recovery facility (MRF), which will be appropriated funds in the 2016 budget.

G. BCOS (Dave Debikey)

- BCOS completed the Economy and Jobs section of the report.
- BCOS discussed the Technology Park issue as well, and their sentiments echo the EC's.
 - They are concerned about the lack of accommodations for recycling, especially.

6. Old business

A. Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP) (Alicia)

- Alicia held two subcommittee meetings in November
 - The November 10th meeting reviewed the Air, Water, and Waste sections of the BEAP.
 - The November 19th meeting focused on the Water section.
- Alicia gave each commissioner an outline of the plan and requested feedback.
- Alicia expects the BEAP draft to be completed and ready to give to the mayor by January. However, she worries that giving the document to the mayor without getting approval from various organizations and department heads undermines the typical chain of command.
 - The EC should re-visit this issue in the December meeting.

B. Certified Tech Park, Trades District (Linda)

C. Weimer Dam (Nick)

- Nick spoke with a DNR Division of Water representative. Nick asked this representative if any inquiries had been made to the DNR about the low level of Weimer Lake. He learned that a sinkhole might be present, or the dam broke.

January 13, 2016

- Banning Engineering in Danville, IN has the file for Weimer Dam, which means either 1) Bloomington requested that they investigate the dam, or 2) a request for proposal (RFP) to repair or decommission the dam exists.

7. New business

A. Pesticide Use Policy (all)

- The Tree Commission wants the EC to write a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department, requesting that they record and offer quarterly reports about when, how much, and by whom pesticides are used.
 - The Parks and Recreation Department argues that there is no way to maintain the aesthetic qualities of Cascades Golf Course without using pesticides.
 - Dedaimia recommends doing research on golf courses to find alternative management practices.
- Andy will convene an ad-hoc pesticide committee.

8. Commissioner announcements

- The EC will meet on January 14th at the Bloomington Cooking School.
 - Each commissioner should come to the meeting with one environmental initiative they want to see completed in Bloomington before they die.
- The EC elections will be in the December meeting.
 - Contact the Nominations Committee, Mike and Dave D., to be considered for an office.
- Dedaimia: will host a holiday party on either December 5th or 12th at 6pm.
- Nick: saw Mayor-Elect John Hamilton at a Habitat for Humanity fundraiser, and he remembered the BEAP.
- Chaim: Gar Alperovitz will speak to Democracy for Monroe County on Thursday, December 3rd in the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30pm.
- Chad: the Downtown Recycling Center is approaching the 400 ton mark for the end of the year, which is more than the Center has ever handled.
- Linda: the EC needs to advertise for next semester's intern.

9. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 17 December, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 30 November, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 9 December, 9:30 a.m., Rose Hill
- D. BCOS meeting: 8 December, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. EQUAS Com.: 9 December, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 9 December, 4:30 p.m., Parks
- G. MCSWMD Board: 10 December, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

17 December 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

Present: Linda Thompson, Alicia Reinersman, Dave Debikey, Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Andy Marris, Nick Kappas, Dedaimia Whitney

Absent: Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Kriste Lindberg, Chad Roeder

Guest: Ryan Conway, concerned citizen

2. Approval of minutes

- Unanimously approved by voice vote

3. Public comment

- No members of the public spoke.

4. Committee reports & discussions

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (Linda)

- No petitions came to the Plan Commission in December, so Linda had no report.

B. Natural Landscaping Committee (Andy)

- Andy wants to hand out milkweed plugs to the public as a Natural Landscaping Committee project.

C. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)

- Two high school sophomores recorded Carrie Bridges, Lee Huss, and Laura Cornell inspecting the oak tree in Seminary Square, explaining why it needed to be removed. Laura also offered tips about how to care for trees to prevent future removals.
- 2015 was a record year in tree plantings and removals. The record in removals was due to dying, emerald ash borer-infested ash trees. Lee anticipates more ash removals in 2016.
- Lee received authorization to purchase a refurbished brush chipper for \$12,000.
- Holiday lights downtown are wrapped very tightly around trees, which threatens their survival.
- A woman got her shoulder broken by a 16-inch tree limb that fell during pruning. The crew pruning the trees did not mark the area properly. As a result, a training session will be held to prevent similar accidents in the future.

D. ERAC (David Parkhurst)

- The Parks and Recreation department hired a new landscaper, Joanna Sparks, who has permaculture training.
- Beavers were trapped at the Miller-Showers Park and placed in Leonard Springs Park. About 20 beaver-damaged trees were replaced in the Miller-Showers Park.

February 24, 2016

- The Switchyard Park has coal ash fill that is 4-6 feet deep. Substantial remediation efforts will be necessary prior to recreational use of this site. Tax increment financing (TIF) will be used to fund remediation efforts. Buildings constructed on this site will be built to LEED Silver standards. Building designing will start in 2016, and construction will begin in 2017.
- The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) considers the Weimar Dam a “significant hazard.” Repairing the dam may not be feasible. As a result, the dam will likely be removed, and the surrounding area will become a wetland.

E. Recycling (Dave Debikey)

- The recycling committee received the final report from the SPEA capstone. The report included numerous recommendations, including: improving the e-governance platform, incrementally mandating recycling at apartments and businesses, providing support for a more competitive market, expanding the Green Business Network, and developing a public-private partnership for education. The committee will read through the report to pick out recommendations to send to the city formally. The committee will also give a copy of this report to the mayor with an attached cover letter suggesting potential recycling actions.

F. MCSWMD (Chad)

- The MCSWMD Board discussed streamlining and rebranding the website.
- The next meeting will include the new Green Business Network coordinator.

G. BCOS (Jana)

- Jana was not present to report.

H. BEAP report (Alicia)

- The BEAP subcommittee met twice in November. In the upcoming meeting in January, subcommittee member will discuss the full draft.
- Alicia plans to give the draft to relevant stakeholder by the end of January.

I. Pesticide use policy (Andy)

- The policy is already finalized and approved.

5. Old business

A. Tech Park, a jubilation (all)

- The Tech Park case was continued, so it was not heard in the December Plan Commission meeting. This case is being continued, so the developers can get input from the new mayor.

6. New business

A. Vote on officers for 2016 (all)

- The proposed leadership for 2016 follows:
Dedaimia - Chair
Mike - Vice Chair
David Parkhurst - Secretary/Treasurer
- Unanimous approval of 2016 leadership

7. Commissioner announcements

- Dedaimia: PCB information should be made more available to the public. Bloomingfoods could contain an information kiosk, including a brief history of the problem and remediation efforts through the years.

February 24, 2016

- Nick: He read the Black and Veatch water report for 2015, which recommended water infrastructure expansions. Suggested expansions included constructing a 40-inch main at the water treatment plant that could be used until about 2040.
 - The EC should look into and rebut Erin Brockovich's accusations about Monroe County water quality.

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 14 January, TBD
- B. Planning Committee:
- C. Tree Commission:
- D. BCOS meeting:
- E. EQUAS Com.:
- F. ERAC:
- G. MCSWMD Board: