



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, August 25, 2011, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Meredith Dowling, Diane Henshel, Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Rob McCrea,  
Linda Thompson (Staff), Mike Tosick (Chair)

**Absent:** Carrie Albright, Phaedra Pezzullo, Beth Smith

I. Introductions: (3 min)

A. Mike Tosick calls the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Announcements: (2 min)

C. Next Tree Commission meeting:

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office

A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room

B. Next Planning Committee meetings: August 31<sup>st</sup> & September 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.

C. Next Tree Commission: September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Cemetery Office

III. Approval of January meeting minutes: (5 min)

A. Diane Jung moves to approve the July 2011 minutes. Chaim Julian seconds the motion.  
None opposed. Mike Tosick calls for a vote and the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment: (15 min)

A. Citizen Buff Brown presented on behalf of BTOP regarding concerns about the 2012 Public Works Budget. He requested the EC write a letter to the City Council requesting that they do not pass the 2013 budget because funding three roundabout projects (discussed below) would be included.

i. Brown explained that 3 roundabouts are currently planned for a total projected cost of \$11.5 million. BTOP is concerned that these roundabout projects are in opposition to the transportation goals of Bloomington, are too large and expensive, and do not support bike and pedestrian uses.

ii. Brown says the roundabout planned for Sare and Rogers Roads will require that users of the multi-use bike and pedestrian path will have to cross numerous lanes of fast-moving traffic. BTOP has a recommendation that would replace this roundabout and prioritizes bus, pedestrian, and bike traffic over cars. BTOP says this proposal is in line with Bloomington's transportation goals and has a smaller footprint than the proposed roundabout.

iii. BTOP argues that there could be a more significant reduction in crashes from pedestrian/bike friendly options than those that would be found in new roundabouts.

According to BTOP, cost, number of crashes, and pedestrian/bike use and safety could all be improved with a less intensive option than with the three currently proposed roundabouts.

- iv. The Public Works budget will have a preliminary vote held on first Wednesday of September and final vote on second Wednesday in September. [N.B. These dates have since been changed. The preliminary vote will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September and the final vote is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup>.]
- v. City Engineer Adrian Reid is promoting the installation of these new roundabouts.
- vi. EC commissioners expressed a desire to hear from those supporting the roundabout construction projects before making a decision.

#### V. Presentation & Discussion on the Steady State Economy, Heather Reynolds (45 min)

- A. Heather Reynolds, a former Environmental Commissioner, delivered a presentation entitled “An Economics for Prosperity on a Finite Planet” based on information from the Center for the Advancement of the Steady State Economy (CASSE). CASSE’s website is [www.steadystate.org](http://www.steadystate.org).
- B. The presentation juxtaposed conventional economics (economic growth = population x per capita consumption, measuring human flourishing via GDP) with ecological economics, aka Steady State Economics (and measuring human society via GPI: Genuine Progress Indicator). How, Heather asks, could infinite growth be possible on a finite planet?
- C. Heather notes she is available through the speakers bureau for those who would like to invite her to present in other venues. Heather’s email: [hreynol@indiana.edu](mailto:hreynol@indiana.edu).
- D. CASSE has a petition online that people can sign on to support individually or as an organization.
- E. Ideas for reaching a steady state economy can be found at: [www.thesolutionsjournal.com](http://www.thesolutionsjournal.com) from contributors such as Herman Daly, Eben Fodor, Tim Jackson, and Robert Costanza. Heather says contact her for a copy of her presentation for further details.
- F. Question for Heather from the EC (Diane Jung): Where does this fit into the current political landscape?
  - i. Heather responds: President Barack Obama supports Green Growth, but the paradigm of increasing growth is still present in the current administration. France and Germany, as well as other European companies, are emphasizing service-based economies and some of the other ideas of a steady-state economy.
- G. Discussion ensues regarding the EC’s past efforts regarding steady state economics and local opportunities for positively putting these concepts into practice in Bloomington, such as those presented earlier in the meeting by BTOP.

#### VI. Committee & Intern Reports (1hr 5 min)

- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (10 min: Chaim, Mike, Linda)
  - i. Grant Street Inn: proposal is on the agenda for Planning Committee.
  - ii. A church in Bloomington: is removing a steeple and putting a new one in one with a removable cell phone antenna. This changes the use, which changes church parking space requirements, so they will request a use variance.
  - iii. Big O apartments: proposing 28 bedrooms, down from previous request of 45. Address is 340 S. Walnut Street. Calling the project a “multi-use” project because trying to attract artists to use space, but the space itself is not specific to this use. No specific requests related to the environment. Site and floor plans, plus elevations, were passed around. No “green elements” proposed. 17 parking spaces to be provided.

- iv. McDoel Gardens: Located at corner of Patterson and Morton where there is currently an empty lot with a parking lot. Asking for an amendment to allow residential buildings in this area. One third is in a floodway. Will need input from EC as this moves forward.
- v. Options for Living is requesting 3 buildings that include Supportive Living & Duplexes at 1800 Block of Highland Avenue: site plan and elevations were passed around. On Highland Ave between BDLC and Montessori School. They want to expand housing options into a lot, including 3 buildings, and are asking for a use variance to allow for multi-family housing.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (10 min: Diane J)

- i. For tabling, Diane Jung has been to all farmers' markets except for one. There are questions that need to be addressed regarding tabling once we have an intern again.
- ii. Question from the public:
  - 1. At 7600 Pine Grove Rd at Lake Monroe are three lots in question (private owner for two lots and third lot is owned by US federal government). Private owner mows third lot and maintains use of it. The lot borders the lake and has had vegetative barrier removed. A member of the public brought this to the EC's attention with concerns about threats to drinking water posed by lack of a vegetative barrier and apparent extensive use of herbicide on that property. Member of the public would like to see trees and vegetative barriers reconstructed.
  - 2. Land is likely owned by US Army Corps of Engineers (and possibly leased to DNR?). While there is a local ordinance, federal and state entities do not have to follow our local watershed regulations. Response to concerned public: contact USACE directly with your concerns. EC (possibly Kriste and Diane J.) will draft a response to send to Mark Stoops, who is working with sustainability issues in Monroe County.
- iii. Lawns for Life signs are being distributed successfully.
- iv. A 300 level class at IUB will work with Lawns for Life regarding legal implications of cities restricting pesticide use. Students will likely research local restrictions on pesticide use that are in place in other cities.
- v. Tree Commission minutes were distributed via email.

C. BEQI committee (15 min: Mike T, Robert, Meredith, Kriste)

- i. Meeting a few weeks ago with Jess. She will make a presentation at the September meeting. She needs edits back from us by September 19.
- ii. No conclusive decisions on water quality indicators. BCOS suggests making participation in community water quality projects an indicator, in addition to fish advisories. EC discussed this and the group feels there is a need to track additional indicators.
- iii. Meredith will contact Bill Jones and continue trying to get data information and a copy of the most recent model of local watersheds that his graduate class completed last year. Once the EC has a new intern, water quality indicators will likely be the first focus for the intern.
- iv. Diane Henshel suggests we look at BEQI in terms of what is tracked by other cities so that we can track similar things for purposes of effective comparison.

D. Waste Committee (15 min: Beth, Carrie);

- i. Meredith reported that the Waste Committee has been meeting. Carrie has been meeting with Lotus Festival planners. Meredith and Carrie identified the individual at Parks and Recreation who is in charge of planning events in outdoor venues. The Waste Committee hopes to work with the appropriate departments at the City to integrate recycling into planning for outdoor events.
    - ii. Diane Jung volunteered to work on recycling at the area where she volunteers during Lotus World Music & Arts Festival as a house manager for the 4<sup>th</sup> and College outdoor venue.
    - iii. Linda noted that Beth Savich has recycling info put together for events.
    - iv. On other topics, Rob reported that the recycling ordinance is moving, but likely nothing completed until spring or early summer. Requiring existing buildings to instate recycling programs will likely be a long-term process. New buildings and existing facilities will have different rules.
  - E. Toxics Committee (10 min: Phaedra, Diane H, Regina)
    - i. Phaedra sent an email with her update.
- VII. New Business (10 min: Beth, Phaedra, Carrie, Diane Jung)
  - A. Contest for environmental heroes in 2012
    - i. Jared S. with the Mayor's Office will be the point person. Just for kids, K-12. We need to find sponsors for prizes. It will be a 300 word essay or art contest that the EC will judge. It will be announced during Earth Week.
- VIII. Commissioner Announcements and Additional Reports (10 min)
  - A. EC Internship posting has been sent to the group. Please pass this along to those you think may be interested.
  - B. Chaim Julian: Dave Rollo is speaking about the Peak Oil Task Force and Redefining Prosperity at Coaches Bar and Grill, 6:30 PM. Contact him for more information.
  - C. Mike Litwin: We need a presentation from Adrian Reid if we are to make a decision about the EC's position on the proposed roundabouts. Mike Tosick will contact Adrian Reid about circulating information to the EC about his position.
- IX. Adjournment
  - A. Meredith Dowling motions to adjourn and Diane Henshel seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, July 21, 2011, 7:00pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Carrie Albright, Meredith Dowling, Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Phaedra Pezzullo, Rob McCrea, Beth Smith, Linda Thompson (Staff), Mike Tosick (Chair), Jess Vogt (Intern)  
**Absent:** Regina DiLavore, Diane Henshel, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin

I. Introductions:

A. Mike Tosick (Chair) calls the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II. Announcements:

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 7:00pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: July 27<sup>th</sup> & August 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:10pm, Planning Dept.
- C. Next Tree Commission: August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:30am, Rose Hill Office

III. Approval of June 2011 meeting minutes:

- A. Diane Jung motioned for approval; Chaim Julian seconds.
- B. June meeting minutes unanimously approved.

IV. Public Comment:

- A. No members of the public are present.

V. BCOS presentation regarding BEQI & STAR reports:

- A. Jacqui Bauer, City of Bloomington Sustainability Coordinator, was at the meeting representing the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development.
- B. Bauer presented the general framework for the City's new sustainability and environmental indicators website. Currently this website is largely just placeholder links, as full content is being developed, and the main page is available at the following link, for reference:  
[https://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document\\_id=5848](https://bloomington.in.gov/documents/viewDocument.php?document_id=5848).
- C. Bauer also mentioned a diagram of the new indicators website that outlines which pages are nested within which, etc. She did not have this diagram available at the meeting, but offered to email it out to the EC at a later date.
- D. Bauer has had an intern in her office working on researching and creating web content for the Water section this summer, and they are hoping to have that section finished very soon.
- E. In particular, Bauer and BCOS would like feedback about the water quality indicators for the new site.
- F. Although the EC's resident water experts – Kriste Lindberg and Diane Henshel – aren't here for this meeting to provide input, Tosick will email them to get their feedback on some water indicators.

## VI. Reports:

- A. Apartment Complex Recycling: (moved from New Business to take advantage of Jacqui Bauer's presence)
- i. While Jacqui Bauer was still here, Rob McCrea presented an update on his research into apartment complex recycling. He has talked to Stacey-Jane Rhodes about the City's past efforts to implement an ordinance that would require apartment complexes to recycle. McCrea has researched various options including phasing in the requirement by size of apartment complex or by type of material, or requiring education efforts by apartment complexes. McCrea has also talked to Tim Mayer, Chris Sturbaum, and Isabel Piedmont-Smith about potentially implementing one of these stepped recycling schemes via an ordinance and they are positive about the possibility. However, it may be best to wait until after the election and councilperson turnover in January.
  - ii. Jacqui Bauer reports that she recently met with Olympus Properties and CFC about recycling. Olympus has done it every where possible, whereas CFC tried to implement recycling a number of years ago and failed, but has recently tried again and been successful in implementing recycling in nearly all of their buildings.
  - iii. McCrea will ask Tim Mayer and Chris Sturbaum (as returning Councilmembers) what help they would like from the EC in getting an apartment complex recycling ordinance in motion.
  - iv. Chaim Julian agrees strongly with the idea of resident education and would like to see this option pursued in a potential ordinance.
- B. Executive Committee report:
- i. Phaedra Pezzullo reports that because Regina DiLavore is unfortunately overwhelmed with work and travel lately, she will be stepping down as Staff Coordinator.
  - ii. Rob McCrea indicates his interest in becoming a co-Staff Coordinator with Pezzullo.
  - iii. Pezzullo nominates the following partial changes in the EC slate of officers:
    1. Chair: Mike Tosick (formerly, Co-Chair, with Pezzullo)
    2. Vice chair: Mike Litwin (no change)
    3. Secretary/Treasurer: Beth Smith (no change)
    4. Co-Staff Coordinators: Phaedra Pezzullo, Rob McCrea
  - iv. Meredith Dowling seconds this nomination.
  - v. Vote to accept changed slate of officers passes unanimously.
  - vi. Note also that hiring of new interns will occur between August 22 and Sept 2.
    1. Primary duties of intern 1 will be Environmental Education for Fall 2011.
    2. A second intern will support the Toxics Committee for Fall 2011 through Spring 2012.
- C. Planning Committee & Sr. Env. Planner:
- i. Linda Thompson reports on a new petition brought forth by the Grant Street Inn. They have bought an empty pseudo-parking lot across the street and want to expand and build another building with 16 guest rooms, a workout room and 11 new parking spots. Presently, they are requesting a change in use – land is zoned residential neighborhood and they are now a hotel/motel use with this increase in bedrooms. At this point, the Plan Commission will just give a recommendation to the BZA (to which the actual plan and building will be petitioned). Discussion ensues.
    1. Chaim Julian is concerned with their design and how it will fit into the surrounding neighborhood and whether or not the local NA has a say in what

it looks like. Thompson responds that because it is just a use variance for which they are petitioning at present, we haven't seen any designs.

2. Carrie Albright indicates that they are considering LEED certification, but they might end up only trying but not actually get the certification. Thompson says that this has happened in the past with other developments.
- ii. EcoVillage update: was continued last month. They have not yet come forward with modifications. They have had stormwater plan issues that they will hopefully be resolving these with their neighbors before coming back to the Plan Commission.

D. Lawns for Life/Natural Landscaping Committee:

- i. Diane Jung reports that she has received the new metal signs and passes around an example. Anyone who would like one is welcome to have one, and should consider making a donation of \$10-20 to cover the cost of the sign.
- ii. Jung has also still been doing the Farmers Market tabling, which has been going well. She's starting to get regulars who come back every week, and lots of questions have been asked. She'd like to start including more materials about what the EC is and what we do; Jess Vogt will find the EC brochure and give to Beth Smith, who will be tabling this week, before the meeting ends.
- iii. Jung has also been working with some folks at IU. In particular, in a Service Learning web development class where the Lawns for Life topic was offered as a hypothetical web development client/topic, approximately 50 students chose this topic. This is a beginning class and so will not yield a website for EC/L4L use; however, it is a very good way to introduce students to the issue.
- iv. Some discussion arises about developing FAQ-type brochures for some of the common questions and problems people might have with their lawns and how to solve them in an eco-friendly way. Phaedra Pezzullo would like to a potential intern take on this task in the fall and winter. Meg Hathaway (SPEA Service Corps Fellow, returning in the Fall) might be interested in this topic.

E. BEQI Committee:

- i. Someone notes that we should make sure to include the number of environmental organizations in Bloomington an indicator somewhere in the report.
- ii. Following up on Jacqui Bauer's presentation at the beginning of the meeting, discussion of water indicators ensues. We need to figure out not only what we track but also what are our targets.
  1. Meredith Dowling would like to see percent impervious surfaces be a stormwater indicator.
  2. Rob McCrea would like to see some indicator that tracks nonpoint source pollution.
  3. Phaedra Pezzullo suggests starting with the existing list on BEQI and getting feedback from Diane Henshel and Kriste Lindberg. Mike Tosick will email this current list to all of the EC so we can start talking about what is missing from this list.

F. Toxics Committee:

- i. Phaedra Pezzullo reports that they've received the Toxics Report back from the Mayor's Office with minimal edits. Two particular points were: 1) they challenged us on a point but provided no counterevidence, and 2) there was an interest in tempering some of the language in the report at a few points.

- ii. However, there were no specific names of who provided feedback and so before we can address any comments, we need to figure out who to talk to in the Mayor's Office about the report.
- iii. By September, the Committee aims to have a final report and will hopefully, with intern support, in the fall, do a press release, place the PDF report on the website, etc.
- iv. Regarding the PCB Tour: Diane Henshel has not yet reported back with any response from Tom Alcamo about talking to City Council in December.

G. Waste Committee:

- i. Carrie Albright reports that she has been looking into big events in Bloomington to see what the current status on waste and recycling is, and what could we potentially offer these people to help improve practices and reduce waste. For instance, for Lotus, who do we talk to about getting volunteers to staff recycling bins?
- ii. Beth Smith is interested in getting together a meeting with BIRA to see what they're doing currently and what we might do to help spur restaurant recycling and sustainable container use.
- iii. Jacqui Bauer notes that she is meeting with Parks Department next Monday to discuss waste/recycling issues for a variety of their events. She will get back to us on the results of this meeting.
- iv. Meredith Dowling suggests that if the City of Bloomington could do something to eliminate the infrastructure issue (e.g., loaner recycling bins), this might help ease the burden on event coordinators. In other words, does the EC/City have some specific service we could offer to the individuals coordinating these events?
- v. Phaedra Pezzullo would like to eventually have a best practices document that we could provide event coordinators, which would tell about local solutions to specific event-waste issues.

VII. New Business:

- A. Contest for Environmental Heroes in 2012: This is a follow-up on an idea from last meeting. Beth Smith would like to see the EC sponsor something like this in the next year, whether it's just for kids or includes adults and businesses as well. Smith will follow-up this month with some of the groups/people in charge of other similar contests/awards locally to see how they work and next month we will have a more serious discussion of categories, questions or prompts, how to judge entries, etc.
  - i. Beth Smith, Phaedra Pezzullo, Diane Jung and Carrie Albright will be on the preliminary email "committee" for this and will begin brainstorming via email before the next meeting.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements:

- A. Jess Vogt reports that she will not be at the August meeting but will be back one more time in September to present her final report for the Environmental Agreements of Developments project. A report will be sent around for EC comment and review prior to this meeting, as well.
- B. Beth Smith will also not be at the next meeting because it is the first few weeks of school, which are a crazy time.
- C. Rob McCrea sent out an email to the EC re: a press release concerning arsenic-treated wood put out by the EPA, who is finally starting to talk about this product. McCrea would like to see the EC do a press release on this topic also. This should go on the August meeting agenda.

- D. Phaedra Pezzullo notes that the Simply Living Fair is Sept 11-12, which is a good event to keep in mind (even though the EC is not an official co-sponsor this year). Pezzullo also notes that the Edwards Port Coal plant may become an issue this fall-winter and asks EC members to start considering whether the EC may want to make a formal opinion about this plant if it does become an issue.
- E. Chaim Julian reminds us that the City Council would like to see more intelligent people come to give feedback during the public comment period of their meetings, so he urges members of the EC to go make smart, rational, well-thought out public comment.

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Diane Jung motioned for the meeting to be adjourned.
- B. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

May 23, 2011, 7:00pm

City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Carrie Albright, Rob McCrea, Regina DiLavore, Diane Henshel, Diane Jung, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Tosick (Co-Chair), Beth Smith (Treasurer), Jess Vogt (Intern)

**Absent:** Meredith Dowling, Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin (Vice Chair), Phaedra Pezzullo (Co-Chair), Linda Thompson (Staff)

I. Introductions:

A. Mike Tosick (Co-Chair) called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Announcements:

A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2011, 7:00pm, McCloskey Rm

B. Next Planning Committee meetings: May 24<sup>th</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, & June 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:10pm, Planning Dept

C. Next Tree Commission: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office

III. Approval of April meeting minutes:

A. Diane Henshel motions to approve the April meeting minutes; Diane Jung seconds.

B. Minutes approved unanimously.

IV. Public Comment:

A. Mark Haggerty was present at the meeting. He outlined a controversy over the PCBs in Bloomington beginning with work he and others (including Rob McCrea's father) started in the early 1980s. Haggerty would like to see some research be done with the "natural laboratory" we have in Bloomington that would enable the multiple routes of human exposure to PCBs be examined.

B. Haggerty also discussed the issue of a PCB incinerator in Bloomington, which apparently all the right parties had signed back in the 1980s, but has still not yet been build. Haggerty does not believe we should have an incinerator, and yet, Haggerty reports that there is still a process in place that would legally allow this incinerator to be built. He presented a tape of a 3/10/1985 City Council meeting at which the topic of a PCB incinerator was discussed. The H-T called this meeting a "public riot" and the CATS TV cameramen purportedly turned their cameras off because it got too intense.

i. The name of this video is "Raise your right hand," by Jim Manion, and is available at the Monroe County Library.

C. Haggerty detailed a meeting that went on at a church in the early 1980s consisting of individuals (Westinghouse workers, families, etc.) who had been harmed by exposure to PCBs. During this meeting, organized partially by David McCrea, individuals told their stories on camera. Haggerty does not know where this tape or the list of names of individuals are, but suggests that Mr. McCrea might know more about it because he was deeply involved, as were several other activists at this time.

- D. Diane Henshel details a bit of what happened in the 1990s concerning the incinerator and how it was eventually decided not to be built.
- E. Henshel and Rob McCrea would also like to see more of this story told. Henshel suggests that Phaedra Pezzullo would be a good voice to tell this story.
- F. Rob McCrea says that an author/historian he knows of in Oregon is starting to work on a book concerning this controversy in Bloomington, tentatively titled *Silence on the Beanblossom*.
- G. Henshel refers us to Laramie Wilson and Jim Cartwell, who may know more about potential locations of existing contaminants.
- H. McCrea and Henshel are unsure what the EC's role in this issue should be, but perhaps we could advocate for and/or organize the collection of information on this topic, particularly from people that may not be around for much longer.
- I. Henshel suggests that Rob McCrea follow-up with his father to see what – if any – of the information and documents he has from an old lawsuit that can be released and he might share with someone who might write a history of PCBs and their cleanup in Bloomington.
- J. As a final note, Haggerty would like to encourage the EC to take another look at the priorities and responsibilities of the EC contained in the ordinance that created the commission, because Haggerty believes that this is a really empowering document for us.
  - i. Regina DiLavore notes that the code from 1983 is available on the City website. The EC used to be called the “Environmental Quality and Conservation Commission;” one of the statements under “Powers and Duties” in the ordinance reads: “To encourage and conduct studies and investigations...to classify contaminant sources...to determine by means of field studies and sampling the degree of pollution present in Bloomington.”
- K. Diane Jung gives the website for COPA, which contains information on PCBs. This website is: <http://copa.org/pcbs.html>.
  - i. Henshel notes that this website used to be much more informative than it currently is and would like to see someone contact those responsible for the website on behalf of the EC and indicate an interest in seeing this information either restored to the site or released to the EC.

## V. Reports:

- A. Planning Committee and Sr. Environmental Planner update: Nothing new to report because Linda Thompson is absent tonight. Next meeting has been rescheduled to May 24<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Natural Landscaping Committee update:
  - i. TruGreen “all natural” follow-up: Diane Jung reports that she has contacted Stranger’s Hill Farm, who referred her to Ohio Organic, who thought that TruGreen is likely using corn gluten rather than some sort of sludge, but were not sure. Jung has also contacted a Facebook group called Safelawns.org and they are looking into the validity behind the TruGreen claim.
  - ii. Farmer’s market sign-up: Jung notes that the sign-up isn’t going very well; we don’t have very many volunteers. She queries the EC about whether or not it would be okay to ask others outside of the EC to help table. General consensus emerges that it’s okay to bring a friend with you on the day of tabling, but having someone unaffiliated with the EC table on behalf of the EC without an EC member there is probably not a good idea.
    - 1. Jung will be redesigning the tabling display, and creating a form where people can write down questions they have of the EC.

2. The link to the Google document spreadsheet to sign up for tabling at the farmer's market:  
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AqP9VEdoWmL5dGJKT1pzNTU0UGdTM3IGTUxrdm45VFE&hl=en&authkey=CNiu4r4F>
  3. Presently, Diane Jung has all the tabling materials; if you are tabling on any given day, contact her to arrange a trade off of materials.
  4. There is a June 4 Blooming Neighborhoods event at the farmer's market; Diane Henshel volunteers to table this event.
- iii. Jung brings up the idea of organizing a larger consortium of environmentally-focused groups that can become a "stronger, more effective force by working together." This group could draw from a greater volunteer network for tabling events, etc. Jung thinks that perhaps an IU marketing or service learning class could work on figuring out who all these groups are and how the best way to coordinate these groups would be and what types of things we could do to market the idea of "the Bloomington environment."

C. Toxics Committee update:

- i. Mike Tosick reports that we have just heard back from the Mayor's office about the Toxics Report. It was larger and more detailed than they were expecting and it is taking them more time than they thought it would to review the report. They expect to have comments/edits back to the EC in time for the June meeting.
- ii. The letter for a guided tour of PCB sites has just been approved today with no changes, so whenever we organize a tour, we now have a letter to release as an invitation. This tour will occur sometime next school-year.

D. School Cafeteria Waste Committee update:

- i. Carrie Albright reports that she has put out a call to BIRA to assess interest in a mass order of biodegradable take-out containers but has not heard back yet (likely because Taste of Bloomington is occurring soon).
- ii. Carrie Albright has also sent out a call via Linda Thompson to the City Legal Dept to ask Legal to approach the State Health Dept regarding the ability of citizens to bring their own containers to restaurants for use in place of styrofoam take-out containers.
  1. Henshel suggests Lonetta Alexander as a direct contact at the Health Department, and Albright will follow up on this.
- iii. Beth Smith reports that she and Carrie Albright met with Hattie Johnson, MCCSC Food Service Coordinator.
  1. Johnson had looked into alternatives and showed Smith and Albright the cost difference between their present Styrofoam trays and various biodegradable alternatives, which are 3-5 times more costly. They also discussed the option of eliminating trays all together, but this is not a good option at the high schools where there is currently no garbage monitoring and so students throw away everything – including reusable trays and silverware, etc.
  2. Smith and Albright queried Johnson about what the EC could do to support her in any of these efforts and Johnson suggested contacting individual administrators at each of the schools. Because there is so much local control at a school level over what is done in the cafeterias, this may be the most effective avenue.

3. Smith has since contacted some administrators who suggested tapping into the environmental-focused extracurricular student groups to help raise awareness and develop a method to reduce food and cafeteria waste at a school level.
  - iv. Diane Jung suggests that IU Office of Sustainability or Volunteers in Sustainability could help with this issue. Beth Smith notes that getting non-school personnel into schools on a volunteer basis is tricky because a full criminal background check is required by the law and this could be a hurdle to getting IU volunteers into the schools to help out with this. Mike Tosick suggests that getting volunteers (peers) within the schools might be more effective anyways.
- E. Hiring a summer intern update:
- i. Regina DiLavore reports that she and Linda Thompson had reviewed some resumes and were going to start interviews in the beginning of May.
  - ii. Jess Vogt reports that Linda Thompson noted that she never set up any interviews because of a number of projects being in limbo (e.g., waiting for the Toxics Report back from City Hall) and without knowing what task to hire an intern for, it was difficult to decide who to interview. Regina DiLavore reports that none of the resumes she reviewed indicated anyone that was particularly well-suited for the position of extending the Toxics Report.
  - iii. Beth Smith wonders whether we have to have a vote to hire an intern. Mike Tosick says no, that the Staff Coordinator (Regina DiLavore) and Linda Thompson generally make that decision independently.
- F. Budget update:
- i. Beth Smith reports that she is unsure of the full state of the EC budget but will contact Linda Thompson to see what the current state of the budget is as well as when the next budget cycle is going to be and what we might request money for.
  - ii. Smith thinks that we have \$100 in the supply budget that we might be able to spend on tabling supplies, but will confirm this with Thompson.
  - iii. Mike Tosick notes that everyone should think about what types of things the EC might want to do next year and how much those things might cost and if we need to request extra funds for this.
- G. BEQI Committee update:
- i. Mike Tosick reports that he, Rob McCrea and Jess Vogt met before this meeting to discuss priorities for the BEQI update to happen this summer. Vogt will be able to devote between 2 and 4 hours per week to this project, in addition to her other responsibilities to the Environmental Agreements project.
  - ii. The goal of the BEQI update will be to craft the main text of the document so that it only needs to be updated once every 10 years, and that the numbers and interpretation of the numbers will be the only bit that needs to be regularly updated.
  - iii. Diane Henshel and Mike Tosick brought up the issue of goals or benchmarks that we should have to make the indicators more meaningful. This is not something the BEQI committee has discussed so far, but will in the future.
  - iv. We'll be concentrating on updating the Green Infrastructure section first, this summer. Vogt will be working on refining and redoing the language of the Background, Ecosystem Services, and Threats sub-sections to be more urban-focused and more Bloomington-specific (where possible). Additionally, Vogt will begin to develop a larger, more comprehensive list of indicators and data sources for this section,

including, for example: metrics from the Urban Forester's street tree inventory, indicators from the Environmental Agreements database (number of developments with native plantings, number of biofiltration systems, number of developments fulfilling their environmental agreements, etc.), Parks Dept efforts to remove invasive species, etc.

- v. The BEQI committee will be meeting again the week of June 6-10<sup>th</sup>.

## VI. New Business:

### A. EC priorities revisited:

- i. Mike Tosick led a discussion of the EC's priorities based on a document that he has created based on the EC's mandate and recent activities. The three core missions currently are: (1) ECPC's role as an advisor on developments; (2) BEQI updating and reporting; and (3) Toxics inventorying and reporting. All other activities the EC undertakes generally fall under one of these missions – e.g., Water Committee fits under BEQI, Food Waste Committee fits under BEQI, Environmental Agreements' project fits under BEQI and with the ECPC, etc. Education Committee is one of the committee that forms a supporting function for educating the public on all other activities of the EC.

### B. Water Committee update: Kriste Lindberg reports on the Phase II Rule 13 report on stormwater that City Utilities and other relevant local parties (including IU) need to compile yearly.

- i. Lindberg would like to develop a better connection with other EC activities, such as the ECPC, the Environmental Agreements projects, and Lawns for Life, concerning stormwater, and develop a better system of reporting what's going on in these spheres so that she can include this information in the Phase II Rule 13 report. The ECPC has a role in reviewing developments and the effects they might have on stormwater and the Agreements database has information on the types of stormwater management practices – bioswales, rain gardens, etc. – that developments are using to manage stormwater. Lawns for Life relates to keeping pollutants out of our water. Connecting these activities to Lindberg's stormwater educating and reporting work would be helpful for her and the EC.
- ii. Lindberg is partially responsible for the public education and outreach/public involvement and participation components of this report. Some of the current activities and programs the city is offering over the summer include: The Raingardens of Monroe County: Sustainable Stormwater Design, Discovering Your Watershed: Griffy Lake, and Hoosier Riverwatch Workshop: Adopt-a-Stream. She also oversees other stormwater quality management programs such as the Storm Drain Marking Program and related Citizen Scientist Certification Program endeavors. An up and coming Adopt-a-Stream program is slated to be released this Fall.
- iii. Lindberg brings these programs to the attention of the EC to gauge the commission's interest in these activities and connecting more with some of them, including potentially cosponsoring these activities.
- iv. Jess Vogt notes that there is a lot of information on stormwater management practices in the Environmental Agreements database that might be helpful for these purposes.

## VII. Commissioner Announcements:

- A. Rob McCrea: McCrea would like to see the EC be more frequently used by City Council. For example, the EC should actively pursue use of the BEQI report by City Council and the Mayor in decision making. As a start, McCrea would like to see the EC approach City

Council about reconsidering a recycling ordinance that would require multifamily dwellings to provide curbside recycling services to their residents. McCrea did research about what other cities have done and has talked to Stacey Rhodes in the Clerks office about the history of recycling ordinance in Bloomington. These efforts date back to 2007 when Isabel Piedmont, Chris Sturbaum, and other councilpersons headed an effort to adopt an ordinance like this. However, when the economy went south in 2008 this effort was abandoned as too burdensome to already struggling developers.

- i. Diane Henshel notes that at the last City Council meeting, the person responsible for presenting the budget for the new Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) didn't present, thereby stalling voting on putting money for this facility into the next budget. The EC could ask this individual to present to us specifically and thereby spur the process for building this facility. The presence of a MRF in Bloomington might make mandating provision of recycling services by multifamily apartment complexes more palatable to City Council, because it's cheaper and easier for complexes to provide.
  - ii. Mike Tosick notes that the details of an ordinance would not be decided within the EC. What might happen is that an interested City Council may ask us to research or write a potential ordinance and popularize it and then the ordinance would be revised by the Council. Rob McCrea will be contacting the interested Councilpersons – Chris Sturbaum, Isabel Piedmont, and Tim Mayer – to assess their current interest in this type of an ordinance and will get back to us next meeting.
- B. Diane Henshel: She would like to pursue the MRF idea and putting pressure on those responsible for making this happen. Henshel will take on responsibility for getting the contact information from Steve Ackers at IU and will forward this along with some more information about the MRF to Mike Tosick so he can extend an invitation to this individual to come speak to the EC sometime soon about this.
- C. Kriste Lindberg:
- i. Lindberg would like to mention that the “Got Aquarium?” word was successfully delivered to IU students via Steve Akers.
  - ii. Lindberg also notes that an 18” alligator was captured in Lake Griffy recently.
  - iii. Boy Scouts are back workin on a new trail section connecting The Woodlands neighborhood with Childs Elementary School. They are using native timbers found onsite and elsewhere to shore up the trail. They will also be helping Beth Smith’s school build a shed for their garden.
- D. Beth Smith: Smith reports that they have been building their garden at school.
- E. Mike Tosick: Tosick will be writing a thank you letter to Beth Smith’s class on behalf of the EC for their suggestion letters. Smith will email Tosick with information about this.
- F. Diane Jung: Jung sent out an email earlier this week with the Tree Commission meeting minutes. Also, the new Tree Care Manual is available on the City website and in print from the Parks Department.

#### VIII. Adjournment:

- A. Diane Jung motions to adjourn the meeting; Beth Smith seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 9:20pm.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

For Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – Hooker Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Mike Tosick (Co-Chair), Regina DiLamore, Kriste Lindberg, Meg Hathaway (Intern), Jess Vogt (Intern), Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Carrie Albright, Mike Litwin, Meredith Dowling, Diane Henshel, Rob McCrae, Linda Thompson (Staff), Phaedra Pezzullo, Beth Smith

**Absent:** None

### I. Introductions (5 min)

#### 1. Meredith Dowling

A. New EC commissioner: Introduces herself as a graduate student at SPEA with experience working for environmental non-profit SouthWings.

### II. Announcements (2 min)

1. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room

2. Next Planning Committee meetings: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.

3. Next Tree Commission meeting: April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office

Diane Jung will be EC Tree Commission liaison

### III. Approval of February 2011 meeting minutes (5 min)

1. Mike Tosick calls for a vote. Chaim seconds. Motion is unanimous approved.

### IV. Public comment (10 min)

1. No one from the public is present.

### V. Committee & Intern Reports (1 hr 30 min)

1. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Mike L, Chaim, Carrie, Linda, Jess)

#### A. Recent projects update (Linda)

i. On docket for next planning meeting: Renwick Senior Living. No changes at this time from what was previously discussed.

ii. Morton Mansions: On the southeast corner of Morton St. and 10<sup>th</sup>. They finished building about six months ago. Now are asking for variance from zone requirement to eliminate commercial on 1<sup>st</sup> floor requirement, asking for all the space to be allowed to be residential. They had originally successfully been approved for only half the usual commercial space requirement.

iii. A second property by Lewis: 10<sup>th</sup> and College Horizons, which has not yet built. They are asking for an 18 month extension on the site plan. ECPC did not feel the need to write a memo on that one. They are not yet ready to begin building.

iv. McDoel Business Center

a. Site is part of the Thompson Planned Unit Development (PUD). That PUD's zoning regulations originally approved the site for industrial use, as the site was before various factory closings. Now the petitioner on this site wants to allow non-industrial tenants too and they want to

have the PUD amended to allow for additional uses. They are not changing the building's footprint. They also say they will clean up the site as appropriate for having consumers onsite. The site is west of the B-Line Trail. The proposed alteration to the PUD is to allow the Upland Brewery to move into the north end of the long warehouse as a second site. Upland Brewery wants a factory space to brew the brew, a banquet room, and a tasting room.

b. Diane Henshel asks if they have done testing and cleaned the site up to the levels necessary for areas where food consumption will occur, which are far higher than those necessary for industrial zones. Linda does not know whether or not such testing has occurred. Diane Henshel suggests recommending that they ascertain exactly what the building was previously used for and what was stored on site to tell what to test for. Henshel says Lewis should test for PCBs if there is any possibility PCBs were used or stored onsite. Linda says the old deed is available but doesn't go into details of use. Kriste Lindberg notes the site is near the old McDoel switchyard. Henshel adds arsenic and metals may also be a concern and concludes testing needs to be done before approval can be given.

c. Linda continues that the south area is proposed to be used as a gym and indoor soccer area. The middle of the building has no tenant yet but is proposed to be used for retail.

d. Chaim: What about parking? Linda: They also want an indoor parking garage. Linda is waiting on an answer for what they will do regarding ventilation and drainage. Currently, all she has heard is that no drains are planned. Henshel: Isn't the site in a floodplain? Linda: Yes. Henshel: They need a drain. She is concerned about karst and liability issues if things flood. Chaim is interested in touring the site and wonders how they will fit everything in. Linda shows plan maps.

v. Linda: One other project, located on West 2<sup>nd</sup> St. The owner, Sowders Landscaping, wants to build a lean-to (three-sided building) for outdoor storage and is requesting a variance in order to do so. They have not yet told Linda exactly what will be stored in it. The site does not have slopes and is currently mowed grass. The ECPC is waiting to hear wait they plan to store there.

## 2. Lawns for Life/Natural Landscaping Committee (40 min: Diane J, Phaedra, Meg)

### A. Overall scope/mission; sponsorship or committee

i. Diane Jung: Begins with a history of Lawns for Life (hereafter L4L). It is "a positive way of saying quit poisoning your lawn." She believes people lack good information about the toxicity of lawn chemicals and credits the marketing by lawn companies as a source of misinformation and causing people to believe their products are safe. Diane J personally is sensitive to chemicals applied to lawns. She notes the issues are complicated and people feel social pressure to have well-groomed lawns. Diane J is encouraged to see people today becoming increasingly concerned about the environment and sees L4L as a way to get people talking, asking questions, and thinking about the environment in a very local way. Diane Jung passes around sample articles and brochures. Previously she has tabled at the Farmer's Market table as often as possible.

ii. Diane Jung: Wants L4L to become a permanent, official part of Bloomington EC.

a. This way Diane argues L4L will continue beyond her own involvement, have a larger group of people sharing effort, and thus have a more thoughtful voting process. L4L is currently a very small group including herself, Lucille Bertuccio, Ben Schultz, Regina, and Heather Reynolds. Diane also advocates for an EC table at the Farmer's Market of which L4L will be a part, rather than a L4L specific table.

b. Discussion. Mike Tosick: So there's already a L4L group? Diane J: A small one with meetings few and far between. Mike T: Are the other L4L members okay with L4L's proposed structural change? Diane J: I sent an email out yesterday. Heather Reynolds has not yet responded. Phaedra: It would be good to get an opinion from Heather Reynolds, who at this point has had less than 24 hours notice, which is a procedural issue. Mike T: I have a larger concern, which is that we have no other group in EC with this status that will live on in perpetuity. Sub-committees die out sometimes as members leave. We have a core mission of advising on planning, which includes some aspects of L4L's concerns, but longevity is not guaranteed even by EC effort. Has this sort of thing been done before? Diane J: The longevity of L4L is big concern for me. I think L4L would fit with Natural Landscaping if it were to become part of the EC. Even if it doesn't, however, I'd still request

a joint L4L/EC Farmer's Market Table. Mike T: I'm just not sure how we can make L4L officially part of the EC. Mike Litwin: We could make L4L an EC committee. I'm not sure how else we could do it. Everything else has been either an intern project with a specific end, or a periodic report, like BEQI, which is dormant when not being updated. Whether a committee is continually active depends on the committee members. Phaedra: You hope for L4L to have longevity, but do you understand that it is not guaranteed? Diane J: Of course. It just increases the probability. Mike T: Committees come and go. (Discussion among various EC members.) Diane J: My goal is for L4L to have more of presence in the community.

c. Mike L: Is there no cost for tables at Farmer's Market? Chaim: No. Meg: But would there be other financial implications if L4L joined the EC, such as printing brochures or the yard signs? Linda: We print brochures for tabling events.

d. Linda: Another thing to consider, however, is that if L4L becomes part of the EC, down the line we may not use the name L4L. We might just have a landscaping committee. Diane J: Things like that happen. That would be fine. Phaedra: What about the branding value of the name? Linda: We might do away with the name and just keep the concept. Mike T: By letting L4L join the EC you might lose control over it. Diane J: I really accept the role of starting projects and letting them go.

e. Mike T: A vote is not even really needed to make a committee. We can also support a Farmers' market table. Phaedra: Be aware that staffing availability for a farmer's market table is light in the summer. Beth: Tabling at farmer's market can be beneficial to all EC committees. Diane Jung: I see myself working on L4L within the EC with Kriste. Kriste: I'm with you. Mike T: One thing, be sure to get feedback from the other existing L4L members.

f. Meg: So to clarify, is L4L now an official committee of the EC? Phaedra: "We see L4L as extension of natural landscaping committee and Diane (Jung) is the new chair (of the committee)."

B. Funding signs (EC budget, and plastic vs. metal) NOTE: Was discussed jointly with Part C (below)

C. Website description, materials, sign-up, yard sign info, cost

i. Diane Jung: On the plastics vs metal sign material debate, metal signs are far better. Diane Henshel: Be sure to reuse the existing plastic ones as part of the Farmers' Market display. Diane J: She describes various design aspects of the signs. For 50 metal signs it is \$7.50 for each sign, but it will probably be tax-exempt and therefore \$7.25 per sign. Linda: The City is tax-exempt. Diane Henshel: Will we ask people to pay for the signs or will the EC cover the cost? Diane J: At the Farmers' Market we cannot ask people to pay money but can post a sign saying we accept donations. I think people will give \$10 for cost recovery. But we can tell people how much it cost us on the website. I will personally buy many of these signs myself just to replace the plastic signs that we got.

ii. Kriste: How do people post the signs? Diane J: The have holes like the National Wildlife Federation ones, and can be hung or put on a post. Whatever people want. They are only one-sided though. Henshel: A suggestion: Don't automatically replace the plastic ones. That's wasteful too. Diane Jung: But they look bad after a while. At least the posts do. Kriste: Maybe the committee can meet to discuss these details? Mike T: Yes.

iii. Budget notes

a. Linda: In the City budget line these signs would be coming from, the whole EC has only \$100. That won't go very far. Also, EC may set a dangerous precedent by selling anything. Kriste: That's very true. Diane Jung: I'll be willing to pay for this first round myself.

b. Linda: Also, any profits will go into general fund not EC money specific. Phaedra: Meg, can you find out if we can collect money via the city website? Mike T: The tree committee has special deal selling plaques through city website. Maybe we can do the same. Meg: I can work on this.

D. Earth Week activities: doorknob hanger campaign; Farmers' Market; film screening

1. Meg: I have an approved venue at the Monroe County Library for Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 pm. Meg outlines the movie options, including "A Chemical Reaction."

a. "A Chemical Reaction" concerns the story of a Canadian small town successfully banning lawn pesticides after a Supreme Court battle. While I agree with the sentiment, it may be odd to screen the film as an official City group when without changing state preemption laws it would be

basically impossible to do the same here. Chaim: Nine states in the US don't have preemption laws. (But Indiana is not one of them.)

b. Mike L: What would be the cost of screening "A Chemical Reaction?" Meg: If we plan on 2 – 50 people attending, the fee for "A Chemical Reaction" will be \$100 for a one time screening. \$200 for 50 to 100 people. I should note that at the Monroe County Public Library their auditorium seats 144 and the discussion room seats 50. Diane Jung: I brought this issue to the group, but I have a feeling this film may be jumping ahead and at this point could turn some people off, though ultimately a goal of L4L would be to change those laws eventually.

c. Diane Jung: In comparison, "Gimme Green" is short, in-your-face, and funny, and free from the library. Beth: It's about 25 minutes, right? Diane Jung: Yes. Mike T: Is it free to screen? Meg: Their website was a bit cagey on the subject but to the best of my knowledge, yes. Mike T: I think shorter, multiple films would be better, with some discussion between. I did something like this last year. And there is a lot of good stuff available on Youtube, including "Gimme Green." Meg: Describes more about the nature of "Gimme Green."

d. Henshel: Multiple films is great, but somehow you should work in how-tos for people who want to reduce their chemical usage. We could get Mark Lame to speak about IPM (Integrated Pest Management). We have four hours, time to schedule these things. And we can advertise this in the library and the newspaper. There's a lot we can do.

e. Linda: (Concern) This also sounds like a lot to throw together in the next few weeks. Henshel: I don't think any single person is going to do any of it. Mike L: Last year when we had an Earth Week group doing a week-long event we had six people on the committee and we met for five months and we still didn't get the turn-out we hoped for. It's a lot of work to do. I'm not saying we shouldn't try. The four hours is better than a week. Diane Henshel: But we're only talking about a few different things. Another thing that would be easy to bring in would be a 15 minute talk from Worm's Way.

f. Mike T: Okay. I think these are great ideas and a good place to start is who in this room can volunteer to be a part of it? Beth: What day is it? Meg: April 17<sup>th</sup>. Mike T: I'm not talking about the day, I'm talking about all of these things happening. (Discussion ensues: Diane Jung expresses concern about being busy. Beth is interested in planning something child-friendly as a complementary project). Mike T: Last year a woman from the Waste District did a kid's event while films were being screened making recycled things. At this point, let's take this to the committee member. Also, our next meeting is after this event will occur.

g. Phaedra: I think the easiest thing to do would be to do whatever you want that is in line with the EC philosophy and then we wouldn't need to have a vote. Kriste: I'd be happy to help, though I will be pretty well booked for the next few weeks. Meg: Linda suggested that we may want to use the discussion room as a tabling area while screening films in the auditorium. Mike T: Also, commissioners unable to meet to help plan an event may be able to come in and run a table during the day itself for awhile. Phaedra: And we don't have to use all the four hours. (Discussion among members breaks out.) Mike L: It sounds like there it's a lot of unknowns here. Meg: If people could start mailing me free film suggestions and suggestions of who to contact for publicity, that would be very helpful. Kriste: I can help with that. Meg: Thank you.

h. Linda: I am hearing various people willing to help and no one willing to take a lead on this project, and am still concerned Meg may not have enough working hours to organize this thing. Phaedra: There will be tabling events in Dunn Meadow, I presume? Meg: Sunday is IU's biggest Earth Day event with tabling in Dunn Meadow, so we'd have a conflict with that. Phaedra: Oh. Wouldn't we rather have a table? (Discussion breaks out.) It sounds like that would be more doable given what everyone is doing, and then next year build up to a bigger event. Kriste: I agree. Henshel: We could always do a film screening later. Meredith D: IU has from 2-5pm April 17<sup>th</sup> the Sustain IU Green Day Festival. I am on the Student Sustainability Council and would be happy to get the EC a table. It's student focused but I can't imagine they'd be against it. Phaedra: That would be great.

i. Mike T: So... scrap the film screening and just table at other people's events? Phaedra: I don't want anyone to be stressed about this. Diane Jung: But "Gimmee Green" is really good. Kriste:

I say we start small piggybacking with this IU event. Meredith: (to Meg) Have you put in a lot of work to make this happen already? Meg: I've officially set up the venue and have done a lot of research contacting licensing agreement agents, but have been waiting from the EC to move further. Beth: the Library books things far in advance. Chaim: What about a time change? Meg: During Earth Week this is the only time we could have this space. Mike T: We need to move on. Perhaps people could meet as a committee after the meeting?

E. Lasagna Gardening Brochure – **NOTE: Was discussed during meeting before part D (Earth Week)**

1. Phrasing Issue on “What is Lasagna Gardening?” section. New phrasing is approved by general consensus.

2. Issue of how to thank L4L

Phaedra: It depends on the status of L4L relative to the EC. (There is lengthy discussion.) Linda: I think it should just say Environmental Commission on the brochure. (General Consensus is reached).

3. Other Editing Suggestions

Linda: There is a typo: replace “smoother” with “smother” in the how-to section. Meg: Okay.

Phaedra: I like the photos you ended up selecting. Meg: I liked the idea of there being multiple sources for photos, suggesting community involvement. Phaedra: It really brings the message to life.

Mike T: A comment – amend “sawdust” to say “sawdust from untreated wood.” (Various small rewording suggestions are made and noted.)

4. Vote, with edits discussed and with only Environmental Commission to be mentioned, is moved by Diane Henshel. Seconded by Diane Jung. Unanimously passed.

3. Toxics Committee (15 min: Regina, Phaedra, Diane H, Meg, Jess)

A. PCB Earth Week tour update (5 min: Diane H)

1. Henshel: Waiting to hear back on a date from Tom Alcamo. May end up being in June or May.

June seems to be what Alcamo prefers. Diane Henshel and Phaedra note they will not be here in join.

B. PCB tour letter & report progress (5 min: Linda)

1. Henshel: A letter needs to be sent around. Linda: To whom? Henshel: City Council.

Linda: The letter hasn't been upstairs very long but that is where it currently is. Rob: Will Tom Alcamo do the tour? Henshel: Yes. Linda: It may not be bad to have the tour in June because I cannot predict how long it will take to go through. Henshel: I prefer May if possible but that's just my own desire to be on this tour. Mike T: Let's push it back to fall. Henshel: Okay. Regina: But you don't want to wait until it is too cold. Henshel: Also, once we have a date we'll need to invite various city officials, city utilities, various visitors. Mike T: Linda and Diane, please keep the EC informed on this subject if important updates arrive before the next meeting.

2. On expanding the Toxics Report to the county level

Henshel: There is interest in hiring an intern to do a county-wide version of the Toxics Report. The County Council would fund it and we would oversee it. Chaim: Isn't this something the County council members would be deciding? Henshel: I was just told to ask this through Mark Stoops.

Phaedra: Does anyone on the EC object to the County Council paying for something like this? Mike L: We need toxics committee approval? Phaedra: Yes, toxics committee would oversee the proposed intern. The main concern is if people don't like this project taking up our time. (Discussion erupts.)

Beth: Would the report still be published by the EC if the County is the one paying for it? Henshel: If we like the report. Mike T: Is there a motion to do more work on the city version of the report?

Regina: If we will be asked to do more work on the city report we won't have the resources to do a county version. Henshel: Are we supposed to? Linda: Eventually we were supposed to present to the Council. Linda: As an aside, the county is forming their own version of the EC. Maybe they can do this. Mike T: As long as publishing rights concerns can be overcome, and as long as it would not be too much of a time commitment, I don't see how this will be objectionable. It would be good for the community. Do we need a vote? Linda: I think this project is too big for the EC, given the BEQI and other reports. Phaedra: But we do have precedent of Trevor's greenspace report, which looked at county level for many elements and for which we were struggling to keep it in the city limits. To me it helps to look at a county level. Mike L: Does the toxics committee currently have any big projects? Henshel: No, because we just took a breath. Maybe the CARE grant. Linda: The CARE grant was

turned in on Monday. Mike L: Are there time constraints on this issue? Do we need to vote today? It would have been better if it had been included in the agenda.

3. Henshel: We've been dragging our heels on this. We are voting on approaching Mark Stoops and saying you approached us about this topic and these are the conditions under which we'll do it. Mike L: What were those conditions? Henshel: They'll pay for an intern funding. We'll donate only our time, we'll oversee the intern, and we (the EC) retain co-publishing rights with the County. Phaedra: I'm moving that we vote on what Diane just said. Seconded by Henshel. Passes unanimously. Regina: Also, I want the EC toxics committee to be part of intern hiring interview process. Mike T: Yes, that is important. Henshel: Let's make that our fourth condition.

#### C. CARE grant (5 min: Diane H, Linda)

1. Linda: It is an EPA grant to identify human health hazards in an area and it's meant to be a community-wide grant with multiple partners. The County Health Department is main sponsor and will be the holder of the grant. The County has a grant specialist and she wrote the grant and submitted it on Monday. So I don't know how long it will be before we hear anything. The grant commitment is to hold some townhall meetings and to get citizen input on what they think are the environmental health hazards affecting them. The area is limited to an area on the west side of Bloomington that has industrial issues. They had wanted to do the whole county but it was just too big.

2. The grant will have two phases. Phase 1: Money will be used to hire a coordinator who will coordinate and moderate the townhall meetings and compile the information gathered on what the community sees as a priority. Phase 2 (requires a separate grant application): the remediation of sites decided to be biggest issue during phase 1. The partners involved are the City, County, Hospital, IU, and citizens. The first and second phases are \$100,000. Henshel: It's got to be more than that. Linda: Well, the first phase is \$100,000, over 2 years. The EC's role is to be part of discussion on what the priorities should be for environmental health issues. Mike T: Alright, we'll wait to hear more. Henshel: It will be 6-10 months before we hear.

#### 4. Polystyrene waste update (10 Min: Beth, Carrie, Jess)

##### 1. Status report: approaching individual restaurants

Mike T: I know there's been a lot of action pounding the pavement. Beth: Yes. And people can take brochures (to distribute) if you'd like. My concern is how do I set up a database listing whom we have already approached? Jess: I'll do that in Googledocs. Also, I'm in the process of making new info sheet. Carrie: Can we name companies that supply eco-friendly alternatives on the info sheet? That was an issue with lasagna gardening brochure. Jess: We'll have a disclaimer saying tell us if you aren't listed. Linda: I guess that would be okay.

##### 2. Suggestions for the future

Beth: I've had success canvassing individual restaurants, but we should also do more work contacting BIRA (Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association). Kriste: You can also see about having a press release put into Herald Times.

#### 5. STAR (5 min: Mike T) & 6. BEQI (5 min: Mike T, Robert, Meg)

##### 1. A redefinition of BEQI is needed

Mike T: Jill Mayner is the BCOS intern for STAR. I sat in on the last BCOS meeting. They meet bi-weekly. STAR and BEQI currently overlap a lot. Rob and Mike T met yesterday to discuss. We want to update the 2007 BEQI, with Meg's help, being sure it works cohesively with STAR. The last BEQI was web-only and we'd like to see this continue. Next week there's a BCOS meeting. Rob: We read Jess' BEQI/STAR comparison and used it as a base to decide on BEQI's core issue areas. For BEQI this will be water, land use patterns, green infrastructure and air quality. The toxics inventory could also complement this core well. Beyond that are energy and transportation, which overlap with STAR. In the future we need to meet with BCOS to hash how we can create two complementary documents that are distinct. Currently there is a lot of overlap.

##### 2. A proposal to work with IU

Henshel: I have a request. Jamie Panunzio is the sustainability intern handles IU's version of an environmental indicator report (AASHE). It would be nice if she were in on this discussion.

### 3. More on the nature of BEQI

Mike T: Waste is currently part of BEQI. I thought that could go along with water quality. Phaedra: I was wondering if the polystyrene documents could go up on that website. Mike T: That is a good idea. Let's do that. In general, with BEQI we want to avoid unnecessary rewriting effort each time BEQI is updated. It should be written in such a way that the data can be updated periodically but we don't have to reinvent the wheel. That's a focus of our plan for this year: working with the model we already have, finding places that are out of date, and rewriting them. BCOS meets every two weeks, so hopefully I'll know more soon. Jess: I will resend around the BCOS/STAR comparison document.

### 4. One final thing: summer intern allocation

Mike T: This summer we have money for two interns, one of which we would like them to be BEQI focused. Phaedra: We need to talk about that because the toxics report needs more work too and the Council has asked us to make that be a priority. Mike T: Well, we'll have two summer interns.

5. The EC also notes that updating the water section of BEQI has been tricky in the past due to data restrictions from utilities.

## VI. New business (20 min)

### A. Watershed study for Clear Creek (10 min: Kriste)

#### 1. Project Overview

Kriste: A stream study / stormwater quality project is proposed at the McDoel Switchyard., which is adjacent to the McDoel Business Center. It's a long site, geographically, stretching from Grimes to Country Club. Through the City, Parks and Recreation has started a biological assessment of the area. I've been asked to help coordinate a study on the riparian zones. We are looking at monitoring those areas for the next couple of months. In the fall the City will start a bigger push. It is an old railroad yard and it needs a lot of TLC.

#### 2. Contamination Concern

Henshel: What has been done about monitoring metals in the area? Kriste: I don't know. I'm not involved with that part, but I understand they are there. Henshel: I can send you a report on it from last year. A class of mine, led by Parks and Rec intern Matt Johnson, did a risk assessment there.

#### 3. What indicators are being studied?

Kriste: We have recently trained 22 students of chemistry professor Kate Reck as part of Hooiser River Watch. Linda: So all of this is Parks and Rec. Kriste: Primarily. Utilities is aware of the project and is onboard with it. Linda: You are testing the water? Kriste: I am responsible for coordinating a study of the stream, using primarily stormwater quality monitoring methods. HRW studies chemical, physical, and biological parameters. The chemical parameters would be change in temperature, turbidity P, N, and pH. Benthic macroinvertebrates are also being studied. We're looking at baseline data right now. It's just a start, but I was wondering what kind of interest the EC might have in this. We already are doing a clean-up over Earth Week. Another concern is abandoned homeless camps in the area. I just want to make the EC aware of this project and see where we can go from here. Henshel: Can you ask Utilities to ask EPA to monitor for PCBs, specifically. During high flow especially, because is when PCBs get pushed out. Kriste: Let's talk. Henshel: You also need to contact Tom Alcamo. (Nature of the site is discussed at length.) Mike T: This is definitely of interest to the EC. Keep us updated.

Mike L: Is this a stream or watershed study? And what is the goal? Kriste: It is more of a stream stormwater quality monitoring project. It's a huge project. We'll also have students do storm drain marking. Mike L: Will remediation be done? Kriste: I'd imagine they will later on. Heather Reynolds is already involved with plant remediation. It is a neat project and you'll be hearing more about it in the future.

### B. Earth Week tabling event opportunities (10 min: Meg)

Meg: We have options not yet mentioned: 1. Join the Parks & Rec table on Thursday (no set time yet. Also they want "interactive" tables. Phaedra: We aren't prepared to do that. 2. MCPL kid-focused event at 5:30pm mentioned by Beth. Beth: Mr. Wolf at the MCPL would have needed

reservations to happen by January. Meg: I'm hearing the two Thursday opportunities won't be happening. Phaedra: That's correct.

## VII. Commissioner announcements and additional reports (10 min)

A. Kriste: Looking to restart local Adopt-A-River program, which recently has been cut by the state. There will be a few events this summer.

B. Jess: Is officially admitted to SPEA's PhD program. This means she will be done working at EC in August. Will work with Burney Fischer on urban forestry and applied ecology.

C. Beth: Passes around letters from kids on environmental action suggestions.

D. Diane Jung: Was at the most recent Tree Commission meeting. Discussed about first responders, due diligence, recovery plans, and ice storm tree tracking public domain software. Wants to see a Google map of which trees are tagged for removal. Tree Commission also notes the 46-bypass is NOT part of Tree Commission's jurisdiction, it's the State. Trees have been donated for Bloomington's 3<sup>rd</sup> St area. Also, April 29<sup>th</sup> is Arbor Day. Upcoming event: Treefest at Bachelor, no date set yet. Also, a huge tree at Seminary Square with hanging branch needs to be dealt with and is likely to be cut.

E. Carrie: Next week a Local Business Owners Recycling event is happening. I will bring a report back on what happens there.

F. Mike L: Attended most recent deer meeting, which focused on DNR's public land management rules.

G. Henshel: Hoosier-to-Hoosier. We (the EC) can adopt 3 or 6 hours of a sorting day if we'd like. It is an event collecting what students would otherwise throw away when they leave for the summer. May 2-6 is the primary collection week. Subsequent weekends are sorting days, with the picking up pace in August. The event itself is on 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Sorting can include kids, by the way. Mike T: I like the idea, but send an email so we can schedule. Kriste: Let's use Doodle. Mike T: Okay, let's try.

H: Rob: Nothing to report.

I: Linda:

1. The spring Habitat Stewards Class is coming up.

2. Also, there's a pharmaceutical disposal program being worked out. The legal issues have been figured out and two boxes have been obtained from Illinois Sea Grant. Their locations are not yet set but the two places being looked at for the pilot project are the east side CVS pharmacy and the hospital pharmacy, both of which are open 24/7. The group wants promotional help from the EC, but otherwise we won't have to do anything. Even controlled substances can be put in the box, which belongs to the Sheriff's department and goes to them. Only sharps and aerosols won't be accepted. Meg: I'd be interested in getting involved in that project. Linda: Excellent.

(General Discussion breaks out. Beth's letters from schoolchildren are passed around.)

## VIII. Adjournment



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Carrier Albright, Meg Hathaway (Intern), Diane Henshel, Chaim Julian, Diane Jung, Mike Litwin, Rob McCrae, Phaedra Pezzullo (Co-Chair), Linda Thompson (Staff), Mike Tosick (Co-Chair), Jess Vogt (Intern)

**Absent:** Kriste Lindberg, Beth Smith

I. Introductions:

A. Phaedra Pezzullo calls the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

II. Announcements:

A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Wednesday, March 23, 2011, 7pm, **Hooker Room** (NOTE the change in location).

B. Next Planning Committee meetings: February 23 & March 10, 2011, 4:10pm, Planning Dept.

C. Next Tree Commission: April 20, 2011, 9:30am, Rose Hill Cemetery Office

III. Approval of January meeting minutes:

A. Chaim Julian moves to accept the January meeting minutes as sent out by Jess Vogt via email earlier today. Mike Litwin seconds this movement. Phaedra Pezzullo calls for a vote and the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment:

A. No public was present at this meeting beyond those affiliated with the EcoVillage project (see below).

V. EcoVillage Presentation:

A. Daniel Weddle and his partners in this project (Zach Dwiell and Carolyn Blank) were present to discuss this new development, going before the Plan Commission on March 7.

B. Weddle reported that his group began planning this in June of 2009 and have recently purchased 2.23 acres of land at 8<sup>th</sup> and Spring St., bordering the Vahalia Memorial Gardens and a trailer park (was zoned RS4.5 before they petitioned to rezone to PUD). They are proposing a site that would have (at most, when completely built out): 20-25 small houses (ideally, without bathrooms or kitchens); a cooperative structure (likely ADA accessible) with 20 additional bedrooms, bathrooms and a commercial-size kitchen for collective use; tent platforms; and, a small orchard and gardens. The interior of the communal property will be car-free and they will restrict car ownership to a few communal cars, requiring members to be able to bike or walk most places.

C. They have done an environmental assessment for metals and PCBs on their property, but didn't detect any contaminants. They do have background levels of native arsenic, but these

levels are only high enough to affect the groundwater, and they will not be drilling wells on the property, so the arsenic is not of concern.

- D. According to Weddle, the biggest “sticking points” with this development for the Plan Commission will likely include: their request for goats; the lack of kitchens and bathrooms in the small structures, which may require them to have residential sprinklers in these structures even though the building footprint is limited to 400 sq ft; upgrading the water line and addition of a fire hydrant (although these issues are nearly resolved with the fire department); addressing (because their driveway is in between houses numbered 415 and 413 at present); and, ownership and liability issues associated with collective ownership, renting rooms, and the membership process (see below).
- E. At present, the petitioners have a good relationship with their neighbors and have not gotten any complaints and concerns.
- F. Membership will first require interested parties fill out an extensive application, and then to rent a room or house on the property for a year. After this year, the existing members will evaluate the fit of the new member and either ask the new person to join, to leave, or to continue renting until all members of the village are comfortable allowing the new individual to join. Once an individual (or couple or family) joins, they will then be able to build their own structure to their own specifications (with a limit of a 400 sq ft footprint) on one of the “building lots” in the ecovillage.
- G. Though Weddle and company are presenting a full plan to the Plan Commission, they will only be building 2-3 small structures this year (pending approval) and phasing in the rest of the construction as they get new members. They will likely be building the communal structure in pieces as they get more more members (and more money). Their goal with this stage of the process is to create the scaffolding for the project and get this initial plan approved by Plan Commission so that future building and future member-owners will be able to go through a modified permitting and approval process rather than having to go through the full Plan Commission process.
- H. There were some concerns from members of the ECPC about the density of the project. Weddle replied that the 2.23-acre property was zoned for a maximum of 30 unrelated adults on the property. They will be proposing a total of 35 unrelated adults in the small structures and a potential of 30 additional adults in the communal house (these are absolute maximum figures). However, they are overestimating the number of individuals that would reside on the property in total and will stop building structures and housing additional individuals at a density that feels comfortable for the community.
- I. Other issues they are looking into with this property include: the possibility of housing temporary individuals in the communal house to work in the farm and gardens in an intern-like capacity; and, allowing guests to come stay at the village as ecotourists.
- J. Phaedra Pezzullo extends to Weddle and his colleagues an invitation for future communication with the EC and ECPC so we can help them through this process, as they need it. The EC as a whole is very excited about the philosophy behind and potential of this project and are looking forward to hearing more about it.

## VI. Committee and Intern Reports:

- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner
  - i. The EcoVillage project described above is on the agenda for March 7.
  - ii. Renwick is also on the agenda, but there are no new updates since the last time we’ve talked about this development.
  - iii. The ECPC has a new member from BCOS, Andy Davis.

B. Lawns for Life/Natural Landscaping Committee:

- i. Diane Jung gave updates. New materials (signs, door hanger) were passed around at the meeting; these were created by a group of marketing students from IU with the aim of appealing to a new and broader audience. There are several options of signs and Diane Jung would like the EC to vote on which signs we'd like to use (or whether it's okay to use multiple designs).
- ii. The issue of funding creation of new yard signs – either \$3 for laminated or \$8 for metal – was discussed. All previous signs have been funded by Diane Jung, out-of-pocket. Future funding options include selling signs via a website or building sign funding into future EC budgets. These signs are typically given away at the Farmer's Market table (because you are not allowed to sell things at the information tables), although they do accept donations.
- iii. Diane Henshel raised the question of whether or not L4L is an "official" sub-committee of the EC. This has never been clear in the past. Diane Jung would like it to become an official committee of the EC because she feels this would allow L4L to be more effective as an initiative. She will circulate this proposal among current, non-EC, L4L participants to see if there is any objection to L4L becoming an official committee of the EC, and then the EC will vote on whether or not to adopt L4L as an official committee at the next meeting. All issues of voting re: sign design and funding options are tabled until this issue of EC "ownership" of L4L is resolved. In the interim, Diane Jung will email the existing description/mission statement of L4L to the EC for reference in voting next month.
- iv. Additional L4L updates:
  1. Diane Jung will be doing an interview with The Alternative this month.
  2. There are some potential grant opportunities for L4L that Jung will be getting more information on soon.
  3. Jung has a film, "Chemical Reaction," which she would like the EC to screen as a potential option for showing during Earth Week (note that this would require some screening costs to show the film in public). Linda Thompson will have this film and can lend it out if you are interested in seeing it during this month.
  4. Jung queries the EC as to the potential of having an IU A100 class develop a website for L4L. The general consensus emerges that because the City web-hosting platform is extremely limited and the official status of L4L with respect to the EC is undecided, that now is not the right time to pursue this option.
- v. Meg Hathaway's Lasagna Gardening brochure: Hathaway reports that she's been getting good feedback on this brochure and it is nearly finished. She will wait to put the final touches and for an EC vote of approval on the brochure until the April meeting (after the status of L4L has been decided).

C. Toxics Committee report

- i. PCB Tour Update: Mike Tosick will be writing a letter of invitation (to assess interest in this tour) to City Council, Utilities Dept, EC, BCOS, County Health Department, and other relevant parties. This letter will have a March 1 response deadline on it so we can begin dealing with logistics of organizing this tour (to occur in April). Diane Henshel will be getting in contact with the City lawyer to discuss public notice requirements, and other legal issues associated with ~~at~~ a tour of PCB locations in Bloomington.

- ii. Toxics Report for City Council: The draft report sent around via email earlier this week was discussed in extensive detail and edits were made. Phaedra Pezzullo called for a motion to vote to approve the Toxics Report with these edits as discussed; Diane Henshel moves, and Regina DiLavore seconds the motion. The motion passes (with the abstention of Chaim Julian and Carrie Albright) and the report is approved. Pezzullo will make the final edits as discussed and send around the final version of the report via email. It is decided that the EC will wait to do a press release for the report until April to combine the reports official release with the PCB tour.
- iii. CARE Grant: Diane Henshel reports on the EPA Community Action for a Responsible Environment (CARE) grant that Monroe County is coordinating with a larger number of local partners. This grant, if received, would allow the community to get together to identify as a whole community environmental concerns and develop a prioritization of these concerns. The grant is for \$100,000, which would include the salary of a grant coordinator, who would help organize all the partners in the community, set up public meetings and focus groups, etc. *[Phaedra Pezzullo moves to extend the meeting ending time to 9:45pm to continue discussion on the remaining agenda items; Mike Tosick seconds and the motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjournment time is extended to 9:45pm.]* Henshel asks for the EC to agree to be an official partner in this grant application (and write a short letter to this effect); Henshel moves for a vote on this topic. Regina Dilavore seconds and the motion passes (with Mike Litwin abstaining).

VII. Old Business:

- A. 2011 projects prioritizing, planning, and committee sign-up: Prior to the meeting, Linda Thompson sent around the 2011 work plan and committee sign-up work sheet. The following is a list of committee assignments as indicated during the meeting:
  - i. Tree Commission representative: Diane Jung may be able to take on this position.
  - ii. MPC-CAC: Diane Henshel is a maybe for this position.
  - iii. ECPC: Carrie Albright is a new member to this committee.
  - iv. Food Container Waste Reduction Committee (formerly, Cafeteria Waste Reduction Committee): Carrie Albright will participate in this committee (per her research this past month on container alternatives). Diane Henshel would also like to be in this committee.
  - v. Water Committee: This is a new committee and a potential way to get more interaction between EC and BCOS; there is no action at present, however.
  - vi. K-12 Education Committee: Last year, included Beth Smith and Kriste Lindberg (with intern support from Jess Vogt); however, this committee may have dissolved into other things. This can be discussed more next month when Smith and Lindberg are present at the meeting.
  - vii. BEQI: Mike Tosick and Rob McCrae are interested in taking on this project (with intern support from both Vogt and Meg Hathaway). Vogt will send around the BEQI-STAR comparison document as background information for this project.
  - viii. CARE Grant committee (active until March): Diane Henshel and Linda Thompson will continue to attend meetings on this until the March 31 grant deadline.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements:

- A. Diane Henshel: Henshel is co-chairing Hoosier-to-Hoosier at IU (an annual project that coordinates donations from students moving out in the spring and a sale of these items to

- students moving in in the fall). She would like the EC to consider adopting a day of sorting sometime this summer.
- B. Chaim Julian: Julian is participating in the Bowling For Kids Sake fundraiser for Big Brothers, Big Sisters. If anyone is interested, he's happy to take pledges.
  - C. Mike Litwin: Litwin has updates, but will send via email.
  - D. Diane Jung: Jung reminds us to start thinking about helping out at the Farmer's Market booth for L4L this spring and summer. She would also like the EC to consider taking on a booth that supports and presents information about all EC initiatives.
  - E. Rob McCrae: McCrae went to a meeting about the local food ordinance back in November and indicates that the people involved with that effort are interested in getting somebody from BCOS or the EC as a representative on the committee developing the ordinance.

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Mike Tosick motions to adjourn the meeting and Regina DiLavore seconds. Meeting adjourned at 9:47pm.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:** Carrie Albright, Regina DiLavore, Margaret Hathaway (Intern), Diane Henshel, Chaim Julian, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Rob McCrae, Phaedra Pezzullo (Co-Chair), Beth Smith, Linda Thompson (Staff), Jessica Vogt (Intern)

**Absent:** Diane Jung, Mike Tosick (Co-Chair)

### I. Introductions:

- A. Phaedra Pezzullo (in Mike Tosick's absence) called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.
- B. Rob McCrea is a new member to the Commission and introduced himself: Rob is originally from Bloomington – a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Bloomingtonian – but went to Arizona to do his undergraduate degree in ecology at Prescott College. He went to law school at Lewis & Clark and has just recently moved back to Bloomington in May to work at his family's law firm, McCrae & McCrae. He focuses mostly on public and environmental law, in particular land use planning law.
- C. Carrie Albright is a new member to the Commission and introduced herself: Carrie is from Indiana originally and did her undergrad at Manchester College in Environmental Studies and Spanish. She has studied in Ecuador and lived in Australia and has experience as an environmental activist. She is presently finishing up the MPA program at SPEA, concentrating in sustainable development, and environmental policy and natural resource management. She also currently works at Feast and has worked at Fairview Elementary in the past working on environmental programs.

### II. Announcements:

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 7pm
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: Jan 26 & Feb 10, 4:10pm in Planning Department
- C. Next Tree Commission meeting: Feb 16, 9:30am, Rose Hill Cemetery Office
- D. Deer Task Force meeting: Jan 20, 5:30pm

### III. Approval of past meeting minutes:

- A. October minutes: Approved, with abstention from Carrie Albright, Rob McCray, (were not yet EC members) and Kriste Lindberg (pending an ability to reexamine minutes).
- B. November minutes: Approved, with abstention from Carrie Albright, Rob McCray, (were not yet EC members) and Kriste Lindberg (pending an ability to reexamine minutes).

### IV. Public Comment:

- A. No members of the public are present.

- B. Phaedra Pezzullo reminds us that usually someone from the Engineering Department is here to answer questions and so if we see any things we have questions on, this would be the time to ask.
- C. Phaedra Pezzullo also reminds us to keep an eye on the Bypass project for any issues and be sure to notify Rick Alexander (Engineering) so he can alert the Bypass project contractor/manager.

#### V. Nomination and vote of 2011 Officers:

- A. Nominations:
  - i. 2011 Co-chairs: Mike Tosick and Phaedra Pezzullo
  - ii. 2011 Vice Chair: Mike Litwin
  - iii. 2011 Staff Coordinator: Regina DiLavore
  - iv. 2011 Secretary/Treasurer: Beth Smith
- B. Phaedra calls for a vote to accept these individuals as our 2011 officers. Vote passes unanimously; the above officers are approved.

#### VI. Reports:

- A. Planning Committee and Sr. Environmental Planner:
  - i. Linda Thompson reports on development proposals that are on the Plan Commission agenda:
    - 1. McDoel Gardens has made no changes since last time.
    - 2. Renwick Senior Living center has not turned in any formal changes but will by next Monday. The petition is still getting a lot of negative press because of the disconnect the Senior Living center will cause between neighbors on the edge and in the center of the Renwick neighborhood.
    - 3. New development: Bloomington EcoVillage, located off W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., on the east side of the Vahalia Memory Garden Cemetery. They are petitioning to be zoned from Residential to PUD. The general plan is to have several small houses (sleeping rooms) and one large communal house with outdoor space for gardens and orchards. The developer, Daniel Weddle, would like to present at our next EC meeting to talk about this development in more detail.
  - ii. Proposal to expand the Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC) to include 1 member from the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS):
    - 1. Mike Litwin explains that the purpose of the ECPC is to review developments as they come through the Plan Commission and Planning Dept for environmental issues. The ECPC meets twice monthly and writes a memo to the Plan Commission regarding each development.
    - 2. Litwin thinks that there is a lot of overlap in issues between the EC and BCOS and thinks that addition of a new member would be good.
    - 3. Presently the ECPC includes: Linda Thompson (Planning Dept Staff), Chaim Julian, and Mike Litwin.
    - 4. Phaedra Pezzullo puts the question of opening up the ECPC to include a member of BCOS to a vote. This passes unanimously; the EC will ask BCOS if they would like to appoint an individual to the ECPC.
- B. Environmental Agreements Associated with Developments (“Development Committee”):
  - i. Jess Vogt gave the final report on the GIS component of her project, completed in December with Joel Grant (SPEA graduate and Parks & Rec Dept employee). Please see the attached PowerPoint slides as well as her final report for a summary of this research (the link to which was emailed prior to this meeting). Ultimately, there are

many possibilities for future use of GIS applications to help improve environmental recommendations for developments.

1. It was suggested by Diane Henshel that the greenspace map be changed to make it easier to read. Vogt will change this as soon as she can.
  2. There is an interest in including parks and trails as layers in this map and investigating the relationship between these entities and developments. Vogt will investigate this as well.
  3. If there are any other suggestions or comments on this project, please email these to Vogt and she will follow-up.
- C. Lasagna Gardening brochure: Meg Hathaway reports on the project she has started making a brochure on Lasagna Gardening to accompany the existing EC-developed materials on Native Landscaping. Lasagna gardening is a method of gardening that builds soil up from the existing ground surface by layering of a variety of recycled materials (cardboard, yard waste, etc.) rather than tilling into the ground. The goal of this brochure is to introduce to the general public a method of gardening they may not have heard of before. Hathaway will continue to work on this brochure and email around updates. Please comment on these drafts as they are sent around.
- D. Cafeteria Waste Committee:
- i. Jess Vogt has finished the Polystyrene Brochure and will send this to City Communications people to approve prior to distribution of the brochure. Phaedra Pezzullo called for a vote to approve this document; the vote passes unanimously.
  - ii. There is interest in developing a supplementary brochure listing available products and types of alternatives to Styrofoam.
- E. Bloomington Toxics and Extremely Hazardous Report:
- i. Diane Henshel, Phaedra Pezzullo, and Regina DiLavore are on the Toxics Committee that has been heading up this report. They presented to City Council on December 15 and were well received. They have decided to call that presentation their preliminary report and will be crafting a final report for the EC to vote on at the next meeting. A draft of this report will be sent on the full EC at least 48 hours prior to the next meeting for review.
  - ii. Diane Henshel indicates a concern that the hospitals and IU aren't thoroughly addressed and may need to be addressed in a "Phase II" report.
  - iii. Meg Hathaway notes that the way IDEM organizes the LUST/UST data it is impossible to tell what substances have leaked from which tank for the leaking USTs.
- F. MLK Day 2011 project: Kriste Lindberg reported that they distributed 70 low flow showerheads (with a maximum flow of 2.0 gal/min compared to 3.5+ gal/min on old showerheads) using the \$240 grant they received from the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission through give-a-ways and classroom presentations throughout the 40 Days of Peace. They worked with The Bloomington Graduation School, Bloomington Parks and Recreation's Banneker Community Center, Bloomington Watercolor Society and Bloomington Supply on this project.

## VII. New Business:

- A. Procedural announcement: Phaedra Pezzullo reminds us that meetings in between full Commission meetings (such as committee meetings) must be posted publically. To do this, simply notify Linda Thompson of the date, time, and place of the meetings and she will post public notice.
- B. 2011 projects, prioritizing, and planning: Phaedra Pezzullo and Linda Thompson make an overview of potential activities/opportunities for consideration for the 2011 year.

- i. These opportunities are as follows (accompanied by brief explanations):
  - 1. ECPC needs at least 1 new member.
  - 2. Tree Commission needs a new EC representative. Meetings occur at 9:30am on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.
  - 3. Environmental Resource Advisory Committee (ERAC) representative: This is an advisory body of the Parks & Recreation Department; Mike Litwin has been our representative in the past and will continue to do so unless anyone else is interested.
  - 4. Metropolitan Planning Organization-Citizen's Advisory Committee (MPO-CAC): This is a citizen's advisory board which Regina DiLamore has been a member of in the past, but she is no longer. You must attend 3 monthly meetings in a row before you can become a voting member.
  - 5. Toxics Committee will still exist.
    - a. Chaim Julian has indicated an interest in including pharmaceuticals in the water as an issue for this committee, or it could be a stand-alone committee.
  - 6. IU E-waste collection and/or Hoosier-to-Hoosier collection could be something for the EC to get involved in.
  - 7. Deer Task Force: Mike Litwin attends meetings but is not officially on this Task Force though he keeps track of their activity.
  - 8. Education Projects Committee: Past committee with Beth Smith and Kriste Lindberg; could resurrect this and continue including the MLK day and Trashionista events.
  - 9. Tree Ordinance Change committee: Never got moving after this summer. Still waiting for Tom Micuda to organize a meeting when more interest arises.
  - 10. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee: Past committee, not currently active.
  - 11. Greenspace Reduction Committee: No activity since Trevor Hagerdorn's report.
  - 12. Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicator (BEQI) report committee: Interns have periodically tried to update this original report. Any of the BEQI topics could also be their own committee if there is interest.
  - 13. Natural Landscaping Committee: Has been replaced by Lawns for Life, which Diane Jung is heading up. The lasagna gardening brochure is ostensibly a part of this committee.
  - 14. STAR (Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Reporting) committee representative: This is a BCOS committee, which the EC has had a representative on in the past.
  - 15. Callery Pear Committee: Need to fundraise to replace Callery Pear trees along the B-Line trail because they are an invasive tree species.
- ii. Other issues to think about include:
  - 1. Changing the name of the Cafeteria Waste Committee to Container Waste Reduction Committee.
  - 2. Toxics Committee: Add PCB tour to take place during Earth Week to the task list for this committee.
  - 3. Earth Week: Beth Smith would like to add more kid-friendly events to this week.
- iii. Keep these issues in mind for next meeting and try to find one committee that you will be most interested in devoting time to. Note that there are NOT monthly meetings for each of these committees; they meet sporadically as needed. We'll decide on specific priorities based on Commissioner interests at that time.
- iv. If you have more ideas, email Linda Thompson so she can add these to the list.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements:

- A. Phaedra Pezzullo gives a Lawns for Life update on behalf of Diane Jung: L4L would like to launch on the EC website a place for people to contact Diane Jung to order a L4L sign. Next EC meeting we need to discuss whether there should be variations in signs (multiple designs) or a single unified design, whether and what to charge for these signs, what material to make signs out of, and the existence of new pamphlets and fliers for L4L.

IX. Adjournment:

- A. Mike Litwin moves to adjourn the meeting; Diane Henshel seconds; unanimously passed and meeting is adjourned.