



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Thursday, January 17, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Chaim Julian, Dianne May, Mike Litwin (Vice Chair), Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Deborah Myerson, Sean Gorman, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow), Carissa Moncavage, and Kriste Lindberg

**Absent:**

Diane Jung and Andy Williams

- I. Introductions (5 min) (Time mark 7:04 pm)
- II. Announcements (5 min)
- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: February 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. Meeting: Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Courthouse (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month)
- III. Approval of November & December Minutes (5 min)
- A. Whitney motions for the approval of November and December minutes. Moncavage seconds. Lindberg, Litwin and Gorman abstain from voting. The motion passes unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment (5 min) (Time mark 7:06 pm)
- V. Committee reports & discussions (50 min)
- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
    - 1. Patterson Park: Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Patterson Dr.: Had their first meeting with the Plan Commission a couple of months ago and this will be their second hearing.
      - i. They have now included a riparian buffer when they were not previously. They are accommodating all three zones, 75 feet, of the riparian buffer.
      - ii. Also including green building features in their plan.
        - a. Most of the other issues are not environmentally related.

2. Downtown, Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Washington St.: A one story, flat top building located between two and three story buildings. They want to add a second floor to the building.
  - i. The second floor would have two, four bedroom apartments.
  - ii. The ECPC has recommended to request a green roof and other green building features they can add.
  - iii. Thompson emailed their consultant, who is LEED certified, asking about the green roof and green building features but has not received any details yet.
3. Cambria Suites, located on North Walnut, where Great Wall restaurant is. They had petitioned for a high end hotel.
  - i. They now have to change entire plan based on fire truck accessibility.
  - ii. Thompson says we will ask for green building and a few minor adjustments to their landscape plan.
4. Summer House Inn, East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Planning on tearing down and building a new three story facility.
  - i. It will be exclusively a motel on the first floor. The second and third floors will be furnished apartments leased on a 9 month basis for students. During the summer months the second and third floor apartments will be rented as motel rooms.
  - ii. They want to do the site plan in two phases. The front of the current site building will be torn down first, then the back.
  - iii. The ECPC has said they need to change some of their landscape plan because they had red maples as street trees.
  - iv. Their plan also has several bio filtration basins, which will act as sediment basins during construction, and then become detention basins once construction is over.
    - a. In the past some developers have not planted the detention basins with their native plants, so this is something that needs to be monitored and done in the near future.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste, Emily) (Time mark 7:27 pm)

1. Jung not present.
2. Kasnak has not yet attended the indoor farmers market to table for L4L, but hopes to for February and March.
  - i. Planning for activities at the February and March market.
  - ii. Also working to attain grants to make production of more L4L signs.
    - a. Kasnak is still having difficulty reaching a member of the Sassafrass Audubon Society.
    - b. The Center for Sustainable Living has said they are interested in donating money if possible and hope to do so in the spring.
    - c. Kasnak says it may be worth having a conversation on what other avenues could be pursued to attain money for the production of more signs.
      - i. Whitney asks how much each sign costs to produce; Thompson believes they cost just under \$8 a piece.
      - ii. Thompson says a batch of 50 signs cost \$375 to produce.

C. BEQI Committee (10 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne) (Time mark 7:34 pm)

1. Piepenburg is working on the transportation section of the report.
  - i. The first part of the section to be addressed was “Transportation Basics” which hasn’t been updated since 2000. It is now pretty much updated and finished.
    - a. The next section is vehicle miles traveled. Hathaway completed before she left.
    - b. The commute to work section Piepenburg began working on today and suggests combining this section with the bike to work section.

- c. The public bus ridership section is now complete with updated figures.
- d. Hathaway also completed the last section before leaving which is gas saving tips.
- e. Piepenburg will be sending out a draft in the upcoming weeks.

D. Eco-Heroes Award Committee (10 min: Carrie, Kriste, Emily) (Time mark 7:36 pm)

1. Kasnak sent out all letters for business donations and sponsorships the week of the December meeting.
  - i. Currently have 7 donors and 6 sponsors for a total of \$575 in sponsorships alone. Businesses have until January 31<sup>st</sup> to commit to a donation or sponsorship.
  - ii. Also sent letters to private schools notifying them of competition and event.
  - iii. Kasnak has been trying to reach the homeschool network and asks that if anyone has a connection to this group to let her know.
2. Kasnak has produced and brought a number of different thank you certificate possibilities and a logo design for the competition and event.
  - i. Commissioners comment on certificate and logo and what they would like to see changed.
3. Albright has talked to the Mayor about sponsoring supplies to Fairview Elementary School.
  - i. He has agreed to do so and would like the EC to decide which supplies would be useful, which local store to buy from, the total price of supplies, etc.
  - ii. Meyerson offered to reach out to Fairview Elementary's art teacher to discuss what supplies would be most useful.

E. Martin Luther King Day Activities (10 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. This is the sixth time we have received a grant to make an MLK day activity possible. This year the committee partnered with The Center for Sustainable Living to host a community event focused around the creation of a mandala.
  - i. Sara Steffey McQueen is a teacher helping to coordinate the event.
2. The event will be held in City Hall Atrium with two different sessions, 1-2 pm and 3-4 pm.
3. The committee created a PSA which started airing Monday on WFHB.

VI. Old business (10 min)

(Time mark 7:56 pm)

A. EAB follow-up (10 min: Mike)

1. A contaminants biologist has written a letter to the City expressing concern about the use of insecticides to treat the trees.
  - i. This concern is based on the systemic nature of the insecticide and how it could potentially get into the food chain.
2. The supervisor of the same office as the contaminants biologist, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote a letter to the editor expressing similar concerns.
3. Litwin says the EC needs to decide whether to take any action, such as writing a letter, or not.
  - i. Discussion continues about the possible actions that the EC could take.
4. Litwin notes that other cities have addressed this problem in similar ways and how it may be useful to research other cities and their outcomes with the treatment.
  - i. Discussion continues on the details of different insecticides.
5. Thompson says that one Neighborhood Association has already hired a professional group to treat EAB and she fears homeowners who can go to any hardware store and buy products that are not injected but instead applied to the soil, which are also systemic but impact anything else that is growing near the tree and can be harmful to pollinators.
  - i. Tree-age, the insecticide that may be used to treat EAB, may not be as harmful as the products applied to the soil due to the fact that not many pollinators visit Ash trees and that it only kills the larvae.

6. Litwin states that perhaps at a minimum the EC should recommend that the City coordinate a public education campaign.
  - i. Whitney asks whose responsibility it is to initiate a public education campaign; Litwin believes it is the tree commission.
7. Discussion again continues on what role the EC should assume in addressing this issue and how to make the public education project or campaign possible.
  - i. Commissioners are torn on the topic of whether to treat the trees or remove them but all agree that public education is a necessity and that the EC can play some role, such as connecting resources.
8. It is decided that Albright will draft a letter on the EC's position to then send around to all Commissioners. Thompson will contact Lee Huss to determine when the EC letter should be sent.

VII. New business (40 min)

(Time mark 8:35 pm)

A. 2013 Project Discussion (30 min: Carrie, all)

1. Thompson suggests doing something on Arbor Day or during National Wildlife week in relation to EAB education this year.
  - i. Albright asks what exactly Thompson envisions or means by education, such as tabling; Thompson responds that it depends on if we can find an event to table at.
    - a. Thompson says the EC could also choose to make a committee in relation to this issue to begin work in the spring.
2. Albright encourages the commissioners to consider ideas for ordinances to enact within the City, as it's done in the past. She suggested it may be worthwhile to have interested commissioners form a group to narrow down ideas.
  - i. She applauds the focus on community outreach oriented events and initiatives, and encourages commissioners to consider a more direct effort, such as a city-wide ordinance for the coming years.
    - a. In order to go forward with any ordinance, the commission would require support from the City Council. It is believed that the EC has a great deal of support and that this should not be a deterrent in beginning this process.
3. Albright goes through list of committees and vacancies.
  - i. Lindberg should be listed on the Natural Landscaping/L4L committee.
  - ii. Moncavage is not a member of the Eco-Heroes Committee but is on the recycling and waste reduction committee.
  - iii. Thompson says the Imagine Bloomington committee is a high priority due to the revision of the Growth Policies Plan.
    - a. She also asks about the status of Switchyard Park; Litwin has not received any news on the topic recently but will look into it.
    - b. Thompson also notes that I-69 may be a priority towards the end of the year; Albright will contact Josh Desmond in the Planning Department to find out more about this issue and how the EC may be involved.
  - iv. Whitney volunteers to be the representative for the Tree Commission.
    - a. MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: Depending on meeting time, Julian may act as representative.
    - b. BCOS: Moncavage interested in acting as representative.
    - c. Monroe County Environmental Commission: Albright will attend the upcoming meeting. Whitney may also be interested depending on her availability. The location of these meetings will be changing soon.
    - d. Imagine Bloomington: Myerson and May volunteer to join.
    - e. ECPC: Litwin, May, Julian, Williams and Thompson will continue.
    - f. ERAC: Litwin will continue.
    - g. BEQI: Moncavage and Albright will continue.
    - h. Natural Landscaping/L4L: Jung and Lindberg will continue. May joins.

- i. Waste Reduction and Recycling Committee: Moncavage, Albright and Williams will continue.
- j. Eco-Heroes Award Committee: Lindberg and Albright will continue. Gorman joins.

B. Election of officers (10 min: Carrie, Mike, Chaim) (Time mark 9:10 pm)

1. Albright says that the position of Staff Coordinator, who is a person who acts as a contact for interns, used to be an elected position. Now that interns are assigned to committees and talk to Commissioners on said committees there is no need for this position.
  - i. Albright moves to vote that the staff coordinator position remain divided up. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
2. Julian nominated Albright for Chair at the December meeting. Gorman moves to vote Albright as Chair. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
3. The Steering Committee has nominated Moncavage as Vice-Chair. Albright moves to vote Moncavage as Vice-Chair. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
4. Whitney nominates and moves to vote Julian as Secretary/Treasurer. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements (10 min) (Time mark 9:16 pm)

- A. Albright is looking forward to MLK day activities.
- B. Thompson explains that Michael Edwards was appointed mistakenly and cannot be a Commissioner due to the fact that he lives outside of city limits. Therefore one spot remains to be filled on the EC.
- C. Lindberg represented the American Red Cross as Operations Coordinator in Community Partnerships during Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts in New York City.
- D. Litwin says that City Council was presented with the Vision Statement for the Growth Policies Plan. He says the Council passed several amendments, but he is unsure if they passed the whole thing.
  1. He is pleased to report that they did amend the transportation part of the vision statement to include an emphasis on alternative forms of transportation.

IX. Adjournment (Time mark 9:23 pm)

- A. Gorman moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Litwin seconds. The motion



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Andy Williams, Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Sean Gorman, and Kriste Lindberg

**Absent:**

Diane Jung, Dianne May, Carrie Albright (Chair), and Deborah Myerson

I. Introductions (5 min)

II. Announcements (8 min)

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
- C. Next Tree Commission meeting: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
- D. Next BCOS meeting: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month)
- F. MCMGA Garden Fair: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00-4:00, IN National Guard Armory
- G. Eco-Heroes Award Ceremony: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, City Hall Atrium

III. Approval of January Minutes (5 min)

- A. Gorman motions for the approval of January minutes. Julian seconds. Williams abstains. The motion passes unanimously.

IV. Public Comment (5 min) (Time mark: 7:15)

V. Committee reports & discussions (35 min)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)

1. Summer House Inn, East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Apartment/Motel.
  - i. They are making revisions but have not turned them in yet.
    - a. The EC will not have a chance to review the revisions before drafting the memo.
2. BW Properties, West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, just west of Sowders Landscaping and Landmark Drive: Currently a warehouse like building called “Secretly Canadian and CS Distribution”.
  - i. They want to expand and build another warehouse building.
    - a. The ECPC looked the plan over and said they needed to include green building and a landscape plan.
  - ii. Thompson emailed the petitioners to clarify that the building is an industrial building.
    - a. They are not adding on to the current building because they have two separate lots.
  - iii. They submitted a landscape plan which Thompson will review carefully for them to improve upon.
    - a. They have said they are in compliance in regards to impervious surface.
  - iv. On their PUD they are following the setbacks.
3. The other cases on the Planning Commission agenda have no environmental issues.
  - i. Cambria Suites is on hold.

B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. Volunteers will be needed for the Master Spring Gardener Fair on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie)

1. The transportation section is currently under review by Thompson.
2. Piepenburg has been gathering data on air emissions.
  - i. She gathered statistics from the EPA for 2002 and 2008.
3. The committee will be meeting next week to provide a more thorough update at the next meeting.

D. Eco-Hero Award Committee (5 min: Carrie, Kriste, Sean)

1. The Committee has received many donations and sponsors and has begun business follow-ups.
2. Myerson communicated with the art teacher at Fairview to determine what art supplies they may need and Albright is meeting with the Mayor soon regarding this matter.
3. Volunteers will be needed for the April 24<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony.
  - i. A post will be made to reach community volunteers via the City’s volunteer network but the help of 4-5 commissioners would also be greatly appreciated.
  - ii. Set up for the event is at 4:30 with the event commencing at 5:30 pm. It should go no longer than 7:30 pm with clean up done by 8 pm.

E. Martin Luther King Day Recap (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. ?

VI. Old business (10 min)

A. EAB follow-up (5 min: Linda)

1. A decision was made to forgo writing a letter of recommendation and instead the EC has decided to focus efforts towards public education this spring, such as encouraging citizens to plant native trees.
  - i. Lee Huss liked the idea and will be sharing it with the rest of the tree commission soon.
    - a. Huss gave Thompson a list of 9 trees that the tree commission is recommending citizen’s plant in their yard.

2. The EC is considering forming a committee or something of the sort to possibly collaborate with the tree commission.
3. Huss wrote a letter of recommendation as he described it to the EC at the December meeting and gave it to the Director of the Parks Department who will take it to the Mayor.
  - i. Huss is not planning on doing any treatment this year, but has a list of trees planned for removal and will be replacing them with other species gradually this year.
4. Discussion continues on possible activities for public education and collaboration with the Tree Commission.

B. I-69 follow-up (5 min: Carrie)

1. Albright met with Josh Desmond of the City's Planning Department about who may weigh in on the I-69 issue.
  - i. The official comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) started at the beginning of January.
    - a. Desmond's suggestion for the EC is for the group to help make suggestions for the MPO budget requests in regards to the trickle down effects from I-69.
    - b. Trickle down effects such as traffic being diverted through currently less trafficked streets particularly near the west Crestmont area. High traffic through this area may make it harder for kids to play in public spaces or prevent people walking to town.
  - ii. The EC can write a letter of support to fund allocation to more sidewalks, more side paths, additional green space, etc.
2. Julian volunteers to attend the MPO meeting if his schedule permits.
3. Further discussion will be postponed until next meeting.

VII. New business (40 min)

(Time mark 8:11 pm)

A. Committee volunteers (10 min: Carrie, all)

1. Eco-Hero Ceremony
  - i. Discussed previously in the meeting.
2. Public Education committee
  - i. ?
3. Garden Show
  - i. ?

B. Ordinance discussion (30 min: Carrie, all)

1. Litwin has been attending meetings regarding Imagine Bloomington.
  - i. The document the committee will produce states the philosophy of Bloomington's physical growth for the future.
    - a. The committee wrote and recently passed a vision statement and now will begin writing the plan. The EC should be a part of shaping this plan.
    - b. After the document is finished changes are made to ordinances to follow the guiding principles set out in the plan.
  - ii. Before the EC can begin writing ordinances it should determine what it wants to include in the final plan (GPP).
2. It is unclear what this discussion is in regards to and will be postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements (15 min)

(Time mark 8:32 pm)

A. BCOS update

1. Moncavage attended the last BCOS meeting.

- i. The group shared updates on projects such as the Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light Grant for churches in the community.
- ii. Dave Rollo met with Representative Todd Young to discuss the issue of climate change.
  - a. Rollo said it was a positive meeting but Young remains agnostic about the issue.

2. The Trashion Refashion deadline for submissions is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

B. Lindberg talks about a Parks and Recreation summer program that involves going to different green spots in Bloomington where participants would then engage in natural landscaping and storm water related activities.

1. **(?) motions for the EC to become a sponsor of this program. Gorman (?) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.**

C. Julian is participating in the Bowling for Kids Sake this year and would appreciate any donations people can contribute to his team.

1. Announcement regarding Johnson, permaculture?

D. Litwin attended the Parks Department Environmental Resources Advisory Council (ERAC) meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

1. Regarding EAB, there is a lot of controversy about the proposed lethal deer control method proposed for Griffy Nature Preserve.
  - i. The Switchyard Park master plan is being completed and the steering committee has been disbanded.
2. Litwin also attended the steering committee meeting for the comprehensive plan.
  - i. There will be a series of 9 steering committee meetings between now and summer to address goal setting, then implementation, with public meetings at each stage.
  - ii. The timeline is to finish the whole process and send the plan to the Council by next year.

IX. Adjournment

(Time mark 9:05 pm)

**Gorman (?) moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Julian (?) seconds. The motion passes unanimously.**



## City of Bloomington

### Environmental Commission

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2013 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

#### Attending:

Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Deborah Myerson, Sean Gorman, Dianne May, Diane Jung, and Kriste Lindberg, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

#### Absent:

Andy Williams

- I. Introductions (1 min) (Time mark 7:09 pm)
- II. Announcements (2 min) (Time mark 7:10 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: April 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month)
  - F. MCMGA Garden Fair: April 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 4:00, IN National Guard Armory
  - G. Echo Heroes award ceremony: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, City Hall atrium
- III. Approval of February Minutes (3 min) (Time mark 7:12 pm)
  - A. Dedaimia asks that all the names of those who volunteered to assist with the Eco Heroes Award Ceremony and the Garden show be added to the February minutes.
  - B. Litwin moves to approve with the understanding that those names will be filled in, Julian seconds. Jung and May abstain. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment (1 min) (Time mark 7:15 pm)
- V. Committee reports and discussions (75 min) (Time mark 7:16 pm)
  - A. Planning Committee & St. Environmental Planner (35 min: Julian, Jung, Litwin, Thompson)
    1. Childs School
      - i. The school wants to build an 8 foot, at-grade paved exercise path on their property which is largely in a floodway and are requesting a variance.
      - ii. The ECPC reached a consensus that they would not advocate denying the project but would support a recommendation that the school does not choose asphalt and that they

naturalize the area, perhaps using the trail as an educational resource. The recommendations would also include an expression of concern regarding the proposed structure which extends partway into the waterway.

## VI.

1. “10 North Bank” project for the Waffle House Location by 10 North Holdings
  - i. The plan requires a few variances including a variance for a drive through for the first-floor bank.
  - ii. Thompson has already suggested that the designers devise better green infrastructure on a tree-lined street.
    - a. Thompson would like to recommend a tree trench or a tree plot instead of tree grates, and additional trees.
    - b. Thomson will consult with Lee Huss regarding the best type of tree for the location.
  - iii. The EC would like to recommend space for recycling, as well a Green Roof and green building practices.
  - iv. The EC would also like to know the fate of the stormwater from the interior parking lots and if there is any filtering of stormwater before it enters the storm system.

### B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (15 min: Jung, Lindberg)

1. L4L has funding for 50 new signs which will be ready soon, and is looking for more funding sources.
  - i. Jung asserts this isn't really enough considering last year 15 signs were handed out at the Garden Show.
  - ii. Kasnak and Jung have both put in requests to the Center for Sustainable Living as well as the Unitarian Church and they should hear back Tuesday.
  - iii. Also bumper stickers are a possibility in the future.
2. A service learning project proposal involving creating an interactive simulation of decision making in the process of creating a garden is in the works, and Jung plans to tie this in to an Archer Foundation Grant to be submitted for a November deadline.
3. Jung is also still looking at the Audubon Society
4. Jung met with Claire Cumberland from the Monroe County Environmental Commission who is considering writing an article about how natural lawns fare better than treated lawns during droughts.
5. Possible monthly outreach activity at the Farmer's Market.
  - i. Give-away lavender sachets
  - ii. Seeds from the Wiley House
  - iii. A butterfly attractor exhibit
  - iv. Hand-made paper share
  - v. Recipe for poison-ivy killer that's non-toxic
  - vi. Mason bee habitat show and tell

### C. BEQI Committee (5 min) (Albright, Moncavage, Piepenburg)

1. Piepenburg has largely finished data collection for the air quality section and is finishing up a draft to be reviewed by the commission.
2. Once a complete draft is put forward more time will be spent at an EC meeting going over the details of the draft.

### D. Eco Hero Award Committee (5 min: Albright, Lindberg, Gorman)

1. Kasnak has been wrapping up correspondence.
2. This coming Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, is the deadline for submission.
3. The committee will sit down to schedule and plan the event after the submissions come in.
  - i. The next EC meeting will be 6 or so days before the event, so the event will be discussed further at that meeting.

E. Garden Show (5 min: Jung)

1. The Garden Show is 9am-4pm, setup is 7:00-8:30am. Diane Jung will be there throughout.
  - i. Gorman volunteers to help set up and work some in the morning.
  - ii. Albright will come sometime in the middle of the day to relieve Jung.
  - iii. Lindberg, Thompson and Whitney said they would come for some time but are unsure when they will arrive.
  - iv. Kasnak will attend as well.
  - v. Jung will discuss with Kasnak to check on the status of distribution materials and conduct an inventory.

F. Tree Commission (10 min: Whitney)

1. The Tree Commission feels that the EC's intention to deliver the message that a chemical solution is not a good idea and will force people into Lowes/Menards in order to tackle to the EAB problem on their own in ways that are more harmful than the chemical treatment.
2. Lee Huss is planning a demonstration of the chemical Ash tree treatment as an educational opportunity for the community.
3. Whitney informed the Tree Commission that the EC is interested in assisting in the design and delivery of educational materials.
  - i. The Tree Commission is enthusiastic about EC interest.
4. Whitney was impressed by the Tree Commissions wide-lens view of trees in Bloomington and their concern about Bloomington's overall canopy.

VII. Old Business (10 min)

(Time mark 8:31 pm)

A. Internship Postings (10 min, Thompson)

1. Two intern positions are available for the summer, each for 20 hours a week at \$10/hour.
  - i. One intern will focus on the Green House Gas Reduction Plan and the other will focus on the Greenspace Report.
2. Thompson would like commissioners to be involved in the interview process who are aware of the kind of questions that would be pertinent to ask.
3. EC member volunteers are needed to mentor interns.
  - i. The EC member would be responsible for generally overseeing the project, doing some editing and meeting with the intern possibly every 2-3 weeks.
4. Whitney will send the internship posting to the Franklin Biology Department.
5. Jung recommends that specific professors be contacted with the internship descriptions.

VIII. New Business (5 min)

(Time mark 8:40 pm)

A. Committee Volunteers

- i. Eco Hero ceremony
- ii. Public Education committee (in response to EAB plan)
- iii. Garden show

IX. Commissioner Announcements (30 min)

(Time mark 8:45 pm)

A. Lindberg mentions that the Severe Weather Watchers class offered by the Parks and Recreation Department will be on March 26<sup>th</sup> in the McCloskey room from 6:30 to 8 pm and they will have a drawing for 10 free weather radios.

B. Thompson attended a seminar on native plants by Eco Logic and heard an excellent talk by Kevin Tunesvick related to climate change and how to change your planting paradigm as temperatures increase.

1. Thompson suggests inviting Tunesvick to come from Muncie and give the talk to the EC and other interested groups.

- i. Tungesvick charges an ambiguous fee equivalent to the cost of transportation and convenience for his talk.
  - 2. Albright and Lindberg suggest early or mid-May would be the latest time for the talk to be relevant for the current planting season, and that the EC should reach out to BCOS and the Master Gardener Association and other groups to attend the talk.
- C. Myerson announces that her SPEA V450 course “Cities and Urban Planning” conducted a service learning project in which they developed a plan for bike pedestrian access for the 7<sup>th</sup> Street corridor between Indiana Avenue and the Bypass.
  - 1. The class will be giving presentations regarding their findings on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in the McCloskey Room and April 25<sup>th</sup> in the Persimmon Room in the IU Student Union. Both presentations will occur at 1:00 pm on their respective days.
- D. May has been given a position as a columnist for Roots and Shoots as part of her involvement with the Master Gardener Association; she plans to write about the clover lawn.
- E. Jung noticed a plea from the Renaissance Farm & Permaculture Center for letters of support for the organization as they are facing complaints regarding possible permitting and zoning violations with some structures on their property
  - 1. Jung asks whether the Commission would like to write such a letter.
  - 2. The hearing date is Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Courthouse.
  - 3. Albright suggests that there may not be time for the EC to weigh in officially as a group, but that perhaps individual commissioners could write independent letters if they so choose.
  - 4. Albright adds that the County Environmental Commission is in support of granting a variance.
    - i. Litwin asks Jung to pass along the information to the County Environmental Commission.
- F. Julian reminds the EC of a Forum on Public Education occurring on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 1. The event will include panel discussions on public education in general and other educational topics.
- G. Litwin attended the “Master Plan” Steering Committee meeting, and says that the issues are not of great interest to the EC, but the next meeting is scheduled at the same time as the Planning Committee Meeting, so he will not be able to attend.
- H. Albright attended the County EC Meeting.
  - 1. The County EC has a monthly theme and invites guests from the county department to discuss various issues that affect their commission and how they weigh in.
  - 2. The commissioners agree that this might be a model they would like to try for the Bloomington EC.
- I. Albright also mentions that she will be out of town for the next meeting and is open to suggestions about improving communication for missed meetings.
  - 1. She also bought a house!

X. Adjournment

(Time mark 9:13 pm)

- A. Albright moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Whitney seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (5 min)
  - A. New intern, Steven Flowers, from Indiana State University
  
2. Announcements (8 min)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: April 24<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Office
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North
  - F. Echo Heroes award ceremony: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, City Hall atrium
  - G. \*\*\*Imagine Bloomington Note
  
3. Approval of March minutes (5 min)
  
4. Public comment (5 min)
  
5. Committee reports & discussions (70 min)
  - A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
    - i. Restraunte Japanee (located near Bluebird)

Want to enclose patio, make the building two stories tall after they suffered from a fire (add a second story on to the front of the building). What they're asking for follows code, no landscaping since what they're asking to goes all the way to the property line. The one thing that's odd about the project is the look of it, it looks like a tacky add on. The ECPC decided to even have a memo about since on an addition there isn't a lot to do when it's just an add on. Carissa asked if the structure will interfere with traffic, but Linda says it's within code.
    - ii. Kilroys  
Very similar to Japanee project; they have a patio area on the NW side, and they would like to enclose that; their current hours are 3pm-3am, and they want to open at 11am to serve lunch/brunch. If this gets approved, they would like to enhance their kitchen. They have to ask for a variance because they don't want to be as tall as it's supposed to be downtown, and instead of a flat roof (required), they want to have a pitched roof. They want to have sliding glass windows all around, and the roof will be like shingles that can retract in any configuration (made out of polycarbonate, so recyclable, better insulation value than glass, but glass is like zero), plan to have plants on the inside in pots, since they're building right up to the sidewalk, going to heat in the winter using big space heater things similar to Yogis. The other variation is modulations. We could comment on the efficiency of the materials, but as Albright says, there isn't much we can suggest they change. Linda says it's kind of a yes or a no.
    - iii. Fox Apartments (Washington Street between Smith and Second, what used to be Ellis Floral and Goldcasters)  
Want to build a 4-story brick apartment building with 26-units, with a total of 27 beds. (21 1 bedroom, 3, 2-bedroom units). Parking on the first floor, 13 parking spaces. The only thing that stands out about this

project is that they will be asking for a variance on the first floor windows (void-to-solid), on the roof, they will have a gathering spot for their tenants, and place for small gardens. ECPC said green building, recycling space, veg in front instead of lawn grass, and yay to garden roof stuff. Dedaimia wonders if the entire first floor is devoted to parking? There isn't enough parking, puts pressure on the public commons. Where will the people park? Jung mentions how excellent the bus system is, but Dedaimia said that many people have cars but don't drive everyday. Linda says the ordinance has been changed to specify maximum parking spaces rather than minimum. In this zoning district, you don't have to have any parking. Dedaimia suggests we "squeak" about the parking.

B. L4L Committee garden show & sign update (15 min: Diane, Kriste, Emily)

i. Farmer's market: Jung hasn't been to the farmer's market much because of the weather and illness, but she expects to be there from here on except from June 29<sup>th</sup> when she will be at the Fiddler's Ground. Emily may be able to make 2 per month. If you would like to be a part of team, great. I feel pretty good about the total abundance of information that's valuable, maybe another brochure on bees, and possibly about grasses, and instead of making the lawn be no lawn, she's actually now planting more grasses. Jaguar is a really good grass for this area...increasing that effort, as it is L4L, beautiful lawn without lawn treatments and toxins. Jung still has the goal of doing the give aways and the show-and-tells (lavender sachets, etc). Jung learned a little bit more about Mason Bee Habitat's, you have to clean the habitat out every year, you can't use certain materials and so on. Bug fest is happening (Sandy Belth and Hilltop, Jun 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10-4PM), would like to have someone table the event with our brochures, and Jung can't do both the market and the fest and hopes someone else will volunteer. Jung wasn't able to get a PSA yet for L4L, but she did contact an instructor at IU and said he would be willing to do it for her, and Jung was contacted for an article in a green newsletter, and she thought she would be able to use an article from a previous service learning student, but she doesn't think that's appropriate, and so she is still working on that. Also a Bloomingfood article. She wants to focus this summer on the archer foundation grant, when they tried to do that last summer, there were a lot of questions related to children, interactive/computer simulation, children make decisions about putting a garden together, capstone project for informatics students, tie that in to the archer grant process. Jung also thinks that there should be another neighborhood organization farmer's market (occurs at the same time as the others farmer's market), same stuff, show and tell stuff, poison ivy spray to kill poison ivy, bee bath, butterfly try attracter feeder tray, also bumper stickers. Got 50 more signs, close to half of the new signs went at the master gardener show.

C. BEQI Committee air discussion (20 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

i. Dedaimia brings up overall between sustainability committee and EC, is there room for cooperation there? Litwin suggests

Albright suggests that both groups produce quality documents, from what Linda understands they're working a lot on food and energy. Albright suggests that the BEQI committee can keep in touch with them, help out with (Claire Cumberland is the natural landscaping person).

D. Tree commission and BCOS

i. BCOS: Matt Press, responsible for the Dunn Street project, he's building places for people to live and retail space along the B-line trail. World Future Society (urban renewal stuff), new urbanism is happening in other cities (Denver, Chicago), whole notion of reenergizing the urban space, making it more usable. (also overlaps)

ii. Tree Co. Vectran came calling, want to cut down 25 city trees to maintain their easement, there is no emergency, this is forward thinking. The remaining trees are reasonable large in front of royal Chevrolet. One of the things that was really interesting, the people on the tree commission take offense when some one comes in and wants to take out a lot of trees; has been informal policy of asking people to replace trees they cut down 3:1, Vectron doesn't normally do that, the deision hasn't been made yet. The tree commission got its hand slapped a little bit at the previous meeting because it went into executive session. The guy who wants to cut down 10 trees to move his driveway, the tree commission asked him to leave so they could discuss it (executive session), but they cannot do that—out sessions are open to the public. The guy complained to the mayor, and the city attorney came and told the tree committee that they couldn't do that. Write a policy about what regarding corporations and utilities who want to cut down trees. Linda: Vectron wants to maintain their underground gas pipes the same way they meaintain their overhead wires; with a couple of pipeline explosions lately, they have decided to do the same maintenance with their underground gas pipes. Vectron came to the commission because it's not their easement; on location that they have their easement, they just cut them down, but the 25 trees of interest are in the City's easement. Their point is that there's no problem now, just a policy change in case there was ever any leak in the future, they wouldn't have to cut down trees, they could just come in and fix it. The question of the tree commission is just, do they say "sorry, we

don't care what happened in the future, don't cut down our trees," or ask them to hold them to replacing the trees more than 1:1, and also a full fledged plan, this problem threatens all of our trees; what happened in the future when they want to take down everything...Dedaimia: tree commission has things they want to do, but administratively they need some help. It's the roots that generally cause the problem, the homeowners have also cause problems by digging around and hitting the cords, etc. so you may damage the wire. They utilities don't provide a map...Linda searched for an hour for the high pressure mains, and couldn't find it anywhere. It would be great to have it on the city's GIS, the high pressure lines.

E. GPP: Culture, environment, human condition. They spent almost the entire meeting on culture (meeting every week, 3 meeting per issue). Talked about obstacles and constraints to increasing access to art downtown. Property values are the biggest issue, artists can't afford to live downtown. UDO requirement to add art to new buildings? Then that lead to architecture.

6. Old business (5 min)

A. Internship update (5 min: Linda)

7. New business (20 min)

A. Andy is resigning from the EC, got a fancy new job in St. Louis.

A. Waste Reduction Committee projects (10 min: Carrie, Carissa, Andy) (taste of Bloomington recycling station)

i. Taste of Bloomington had huge recycling center, with BCOS, Hype group and Downtown Bloomington organization to make sure that recycling stuff got recycled. Jacky and Carrie met, and the quick run down is that they're going to do the same thing they did last year, and BCOS will do the same, Chamber of Commerce will do the same, and Edgeworth High School has something as well...this year, fewer trash bins, but also recycling and have volunteers at every station (50 ppl at least). The date is June 22<sup>nd</sup> (same day as the Bug fest). Contact Bet Sicitch (volunteer coordinator), Emily Rex (IU center for sustainability). Last year there were a ton of volunteers, this year maybe do some volunteer orientation. Also looking to have something like a bike flag to identify the trash space...see how much they cost. Gale Health, discardia, borrow them from Lotus. Reusable utensils? 14000 people that go through the taste of Bloomington, also health code violation. Something more like lotus, spreading out over the city. Issue utensils with the ticket?

B. EC guest speaker discussion (10 min: Carissa)

i. References the idea of having someone come in every couple months or so to become more knowledgeable about, or someone from the "other side." So, what kind of holes do we want to fill in? Rick Deets—Monroe Co. Planning Commission. Mo. Co. has someone come in for 10-15 minutes come in every meeting, right now focus on water. Some of their ideas, effect of light pollution in the area, state of agriculture in Monroe county (ag vs. urban ag) Amy Thompson from Purdue Extension, Lou May from public transit, someone from organic farming, someone from BCOS/EC about what we do. May would like to hear about Green Infrastructure. (Matt Prest?) Jung, Monroe Co Env't'l Co, what they do, areas for collaboration. Linda went to last Mo Co EC meeting, one of the things they talked about Landfill Gases. Water department. Water ban? Concerns for the future, what the problems are, etc. Tour the facility? Mike Hicks? Toxins: Rachel Atz. [Dude from March minutes]. Guy from foresters conference talking about land trusts, in particular urban land trusts. Transportation. Bloomington Transit.

C. EC Handbook (Carissa) 8:49

i. Paper copy, convert pdf to word (Linda got it converted by the tech department), she just wants to update it, get it approved. In particular commissioner responsibility, and what is appropriate commissioner behavior in terms of getting things voted on and so on. Bring concerns to the next meeting, she will email electronic copy before the next meeting.

D. Summer intern committees:

i. Jayne's committee: developer committee database. [Explain what the conditions of approval database is]. Communicate with utilities, as far as water is concerned (Phil Pedene @bloomington.in.gov), detention basins and rain gardens in particular. Certain petitions have specific conditions on those. Dedaimia; Diane May.

ii. Steven's project: GHG inventory→Climate action plan for Bloomington. Dedamia will work as copy-editor. Deborah Myerson and Carrie Albright will work on the committee. [Steven is only here Tuesday/Thursday]. Linda will contact Deborah and Carrie for meetings.

#### E. Eco Heroes 9:04

i. 75-80 total entries, but more participants because there were group and parter projects, \$975 in sponsorships as well as gifts, around 8- ppl attended the event. Served cookies, popcorn and juice, the mayor came. The one fault may have been that there was very little high school participation (only Linda's son). Communication with Monroe County Schools, reaching outside of the school system to spread the message. The mayor was glowing and raving about Eco Heroes.

#### 8. Commissioner announcements (15 min)

i. May: interesting reading in the latest New Yorker, replace Styrofoam with mushrooms.

ii. Kristie: Storm water related: adopt a stream program for the city and county, doing a push on that next month, have it together for the fall (adopt a trail program is very successful) Pilot projects on Cascades Creek IU Human Biology, and Heather Reynolds, and Clear Creek down south, with IU chemistry. "Service learning" Kristie is going out with utilities guys, working on erosion control, training for the inspectors. Also erosion issues works for state and federal reporting entities, also have the green spots tour coming up in June. Greenspots.in.

#### 9. Adjournment



## City of Bloomington

### Environmental Commission

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

#### Attending:

Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Deborah Myerson, Dianne May, Diane Jung, and Kriste Lindberg, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow), Steven Flowers (intern), Emily Kasnak (intern)

#### Absent:

Andy Williams, Chaim Julian, Sean Gorman

- I. Introductions (1 min) (Time mark 7:07 pm)
  - A. New intern Steven Flowers is introduced. Flowers is a graduate student at Indiana State University.
- II. Announcements (2 min) (Time mark 7:10 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: May 29<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 4:10 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: June 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Bryan Park
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: June 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm 100 Showers North (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month)
- III. Approval of March Minutes (3 min) (Time mark 7:08 pm)
  - A. Whitney moves to approve, Albright seconds. The motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public Comment (1 min) (Time mark 7:10 pm)
- V. Committee reports and discussions (75 min) (Time mark 7:11 pm)
  - A. Planning Committee & St. Environmental Planner (15 min: Julian, May, Litwin, Thompson)
    1. Japane Restaurant
      - i. Want to enclose their patio, making the building two stories tall by adding a second story to the front of the building. What they're asking for follows code, and on addition projects there isn't a lot that the EC can recommend, says Thompson.
    2. Kilroy's Sports Bar
      - i. Want to enclose patio area on the northwest side of their establishment; they're hoping that with this addition that they can open for lunch and Sunday brunch (currently they are open 3PM-3AM), so if the project is approved they would like to enhance their kitchen.

- ii. They are asking for 3 variances: one for height, as the building will not be as tall as required, another for roof pitch, as the roof they are proposing will be pitched rather than flat as required, and façade modulation.
  - a. The roof and walls of the building they are proposing would be made completely of sliding polycarbonate windows that will be like shingles that can retract into any configuration. Polycarbonate is recyclable and has a better insulation value than glass but also contains BPA.
- iii. Again because the project s remodel there isn't much for the EC to recommend.

### 3. Fox Apartments

- i. Want to build a 4-story brick apartment building with 21 one-bedroom units and three two-bedroom units. Parking will be in a garage on the first floor and will contain 13 parking spaces. They will have a gathering place on the roof of the building with room for small gardens.
- ii. They are asking for a void-to-solid variance for first floor windows.
- iii. The EC would like to recommend green building practices are used, recycling space is provided, that vegetation is used in the front of the building instead of grass, and will express support for the roof garden plan.
- iv. Whitney expresses concern that the lack of adequate parking will put pressure on the public commons. Thompson explains that ordinances have been changed to specify maximum parking spaces rather than minimum, and in this zoning district developers do not have to provide any parking. Whitey asks that the EC express this concern about parking pressures in the memo.

## B. L4L/Natural Landscaping Committee (15 min: Jung, Lindberg)

1. Jung hasn't been able to attend many Farmer's Markets yet this season as a result of adverse weather and illness, but she expects that she will be at the market from now on, except for June 29<sup>th</sup> when she will be out of town.
  - i. Kasnak said she should be able to attend up to two Farmer's Markets per month.
  - ii. Jung feels that the table has a total abundance of valuable information, but has some new ideas for new brochures:
    - a. Another brochure on bees
    - b. Brochure on grasses, in line with the "Lawns for Life" mission
    - c. Possibly updating the Mason Bee Habitat brochure with information about maintaining the habitat each year and which materials can be used
  - iii. Jung still wants to do the giveaways and show-and-tells and that markets, as discussed at the previous meeting.
  - iv. Also bumper stickers are a possibility in the future.
2. Bug Fest is happening this year, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, June 22, 10am-4pm.
  - i. Jung suggests that the EC table at this event, but can't be both at the Farmer's Market and this event, so hopes someone from the Commission will volunteer.
3. Jung also has the opportunity to write several articles:
  - i. One article for a green newsletter
  - ii. Another article for Bloomingfoods
4. A service learning project proposal involving creating an interactive simulation of decision making in the process of creating a garden is in the works, and Jung plans to tie this in to an Archer Foundation Grant to be submitted for a November deadline. The project may be a capstone project for informatics students.

5. Jung also thinks that there should be another neighborhood organization Farmer's Market this summer (at the same time as the City's market) and that the EC should table there as well.
6. Of the 50 new signs, close to half were given away at the Master Gardener Show.

C. BEQI Committee air discussion (5 min) (Albright, Moncavage, Piepenburg)

1. Piepenburg has finished and uploaded the revised air section online. Piepenburg says her correspondence with Whitney during the process brought up some interesting questions about the intended audience and purpose of the document, which Piepenburg hopes can be discussed earlier on in the BEQI process during the next round of updates.
2. Whitey brings up the overlap between the Sustainability Committee and the EC, and asks the committee whether there is room for cooperation. Albright suggests that both groups produce quality documents, and that the BEQI committee can keep in touch with them and offer to help out or collaborate. The Sustainability Committee is 8 years old and so far collaboration has been difficult to establish as the two groups work out which is their "territory." Thompson suggests that they are working a lot on food and energy.

D. Tree Commission and BCOS Report (5 min: Whitney)

1. Whitney attended the BCOS meeting, and reports that they heard from speaker and developer Matt Press, who is responsible for the Dunn Street project and is also building residential and retail space along the B-line trail. Whitney found the talk to be excellent, and mentioned that through her participation in the World Future Society she has learned that these kinds of urban renewal activities are happening in other cities (Denver, Chicago). She says that this is an area of interest that overlaps between the EC and BCOS as well.
2. The Tree Commission had a representative from Vectren come to request to cut down 25 City trees. According to the Vectren representative, there is no emergency, but that the removal of these trees is forward thinking, given the recent explosions. They want to remove trees directly above their gas lines in a manner similar to what they currently do for their above ground wires.
  - i. The Tree Commission is discussing a policy whereby with activities like this, trees will be required to be replaced at a rate of three trees per each tree removed. Vectren doesn't normally do this, but the decision hasn't been made yet.
  - ii. Thompson brings up the point that Vectren will go ahead and take out the trees that are on their easements, but that these 25 trees are not on their easement. The tree commission must decide whether to deny Vectren's safety concerns and disallow them from cutting down the trees, or whether they should hold Vectren to replacing the trees, maybe at a ratio higher than 1:1. This problem threatens virtually all City trees, as these gas lines run everywhere in the City, so what they do for these trees may set a precedent for the future, and the Tree Commission may need to write a full-fledged plan to handle these concerns.
    - a. Additionally, Thompson was unable to find a map of the high pressure lines online that the Vectren representative suggested was available.
3. The Tree Commission was also visited by the City Attorney as they had an issue with executive session. During a previous meeting they asked a member of the public to leave so that they could discuss the issue raised by that person, essentially holding an impromptu executive session, and this practice is not allowed. These sessions are open to the public and Commissions cannot ask members of the public to leave during these times.
  - i. This brings up a potentially interesting question for the EC: Do all decisions need to be made during the meetings in front of the public? Is there room for non-public discussion?

A. Imagine Bloomington Update (10 min, Litwin)

1. The GPP will focus on groups of three elements: currently culture, environment and human condition. The last meeting was almost entirely focused on culture. There is a meeting every week, and about 3 meetings per group.
  - i. Litwin said that at the May 8 meeting the committee discussed obstacles and constraints to increasing access to art downtown, and identified the biggest issue to be property values; due to rising property values, many artists can't afford studio space downtown anymore.
    - a. Perhaps there could be a UDO requirement to add art to new buildings?
  - ii. Architectural standards were also discussed.

VII. New Business (5 min)

(Time mark 8:23 pm)

A. Williams is resigning from the committee to take a new job in St. Louis.

B. Waste Reduction Committee projects (10 min: Albright, Moncavage, Williams)

- i. The Taste of Bloomington (June 22<sup>nd</sup>) last year had huge recycling areas, staffed with volunteers from BCOS, the hYPe group, and a Downtown Bloomington organization to help promote recycling.
  - a. The same recycling areas will be established this year, but there will be more smaller areas as well, all staffed by volunteers.
  - b. Albright estimates that at about 50 volunteers are needed.
    - i. Jung recommends that Albright contact Bet Sicitch and Emily Rex for help finding volunteers.
  - c. Albright suggested that each station could have a flag (like a bike flag) to help Taste of Bloomington attendees find trash/recycling areas.
    - i. They need to see how much these flags cost, and may source them from Discardia or borrow them from Lotus.
  - d. Myerson asks whether attendees could bring their own dishes/utensils to use, but Lindberg brings up health code issues, and Whitney mentions that the Taste of Bloomington will attract as many as 14,000 attendees, so this may not be practical.
    - i. Whitney suggests that reusable utensils could be handed out with tickets to the event.

C. EC guest speaker discussion (10 min: Albright)

1. Albright requests suggestions for speakers that the EC could invite every couple of months or so to speak to them about topics that the EC wants to become more knowledgeable about or perhaps to hear the "other side's" perspective on certain issues.
  - i. The Monroe County EC currently has someone come in for 10-15 minutes in every meeting, and their current focus is water.
  - ii. Some other ideas from the Monroe County include the effect of light pollution, the state of agriculture in Monroe County (Amy Thompson from Purdue Extension), public transit (Lou May), organic farming, and hearing from someone from BCOS/EC about what they do.
  - iii. May would like to hear about green infrastructure (Matt Press?).
  - iv. Whitney would like to hear from the Monroe County EC about what they do and what areas there are for collaboration.
    - a. Thompson mentions that she attended the previous Monroe County EC, and one of the issues they discussed was landfill gases. Perhaps landfill gases is another topic that the EC could learn about.
  - v. Whitney is also interested in water, what concerns there are for the future, what the problems are, and so on. Jung suggests that perhaps the EC could tour a water treatment facility? (Mike Hicks as a speaker?)
  - vi. Jung would like to hear from Rachel Atz about toxins.

- vii. Thompson recalls Kevin Tungesvick and his talk related to climate change and how to change your planting paradigm as temperatures increase.
- viii. Whitney mentions a man from the Forester's Conference who spoke about land trusts, in particular urban land trusts.
- ix. May mentions public transit, and Thompson suggests hearing from someone from Bloomington Transit.

D. Update EC Handbook discussion (5 min: Moncavage)

- 1. Moncavage would like to update the EC handbook in particular with regard to commissioner responsibility, and what is appropriate commissioner behavior in terms of having plans voted on and so on.
- 2. Thompson has recently had the paper copy converted to pdf and from pdf to Word so that it can be edited.
- 3. Moncavage says she will email the electronic copy to the commissioners before the next meeting so that commissioners can provide feedback on updates.

E. Committees for summer intern projects (10 min: Thompson)

- 1. Piepenburg will be continuing the work of former intern Jess Vogt and working on the developer commitments database.
  - i. Lindberg asks whether Piepenburg has communicated with utilities (Phil Pedene) as far water issues are concerned, for example with regard to detention basins and rain gardens, as certain petitions have specific conditions regarding these issues. Piepenburg will follow up on this issue.
  - ii. Whitney and May volunteer to be on Piepenburg's committee.
- 2. Flowers will be working on converting previous EC GHG inventories into a climate action plan for Bloomington.
  - i. Whitney volunteers to perform copy editing duties.
  - ii. Myerson and Albright volunteer to be on Flowers's committee.
  - iii. Thompson will contact Myerson and Albright with meeting details.

VIII. Commissioner Announcements (30 min)

(Time mark 9:04 pm)

- A. Lindberg and Kasnak talked about the Eco Heroes event. Kasnak says that there were 75-80 total entries, and more participants since many were group or partner projects. They raised \$975 in sponsorships as well as gifts, and about 80 people attended the event. Cookies, popcorn and juice were served and the Mayor came and did a great job speaking.
  - 1. One flaw identified by Kasnak was the lack of High School entries; she suggested that communicating with Monroe County Schools can be difficult, and perhaps advertising the event by other means outside the school system would be beneficial in the future.
  - 2. Jung says that she witnessed the Mayor glowing and raving about the Eco Heroes event.
- B. May brings up a really interesting New Yorker article regarding replacing Styrofoam with mushrooms that she thought commissioners would be interested in reading.
- C. Lindberg announces that through her job with the City's Parks and Recreation Department she is involved in starting an Adopt a Stream program modeled after the successful Adopt a Trail program, and that there will be a push for the Adopt a Stream program next month in order to have it together for the Fall.
  - 1. Pilot "service-learning" projects include Cascades Creek, with Heather Reynolds and IU Human Biology, and Clear Creek with IU Chemistry.
  - 2. Lindberg is also going out with some people from utilities to work on erosion control with the hopes of designing some training for inspectors regarding erosion. The erosion issues are important for State and Federal Reporting requirements.

3.Lindberg also announces the Green Spots tour is coming up in June. Jung says she would like her “Green Spot” home to be on the tour.

IX. Adjournment

(Time mark 9:16 pm)

A. Jung moves for the meeting to be adjourned. Whitney seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, June 20, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Dedaimia Whitney, Dianne May, Diane Jung, Jayne Piepenburg (intern), Steven Flowers (intern), Chaim Julian, Sean Gorman

**Absent:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Deborah Myerson, Kriste Lindberg

1. Introductions (5 min) (Time mark 7:04 pm)
2. Announcements (8 min) (Time mark 7:06 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: July 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Bryan Park
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: July 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: July 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
3. Approval of May minutes (5 min) 7:08)
  - A. Whitney moves to approve, May seconds. The motion passes unanimously.
4. Public comment (5 min) (Time mark 7:09 pm)
5. Committee reports & discussions (45 min) (Time mark 7:10 pm)
  - A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)  
5 cases on planning commission agenda, 2 of which we won't discuss
    1. Patterson Park
      - i. This PUD has already been approved, and the developer is requesting a new PUD approval given changes in their plans. The PUD is broken up into several lots, and the developer is asking for the timing of construction to be changed, and one of the last places they were going to develop is now going to be the first.
        - a. The reason is the existing business which was previously going to stay has decided to move, and so they are tearing down this building and developing this area as well.
        - b. This is a site plan approval, because when the PUD initially went to the Plan Commission, they had a few different street configurations, and there was one way in particular that the Plan Commission liked.
        - c. The proposed PUD change will also change the plat; when the developers first made the proposal, they were planning to build all the way up to the creek, and now there is a riparian buffer and floodplain easement on lots B and C.

Environmental easements have to be held on common property, so now there will be 4 lots.

1. This is now true of all riparian buffers, they are all held in common, as well as Karst conservancies, tree easements, and other environmental easements.
- ii. The EC memo written for the original PUD approval will be updated. The memo will include green building recommendations, a note of approval for the native plant riparian buffer as well as for daylighting the creek
  - a. Gormon asks whether the source of the creek the Illinois central spring.
    1. Thompson responds that she is not sure of the origin of the creek.
    2. Litwin adds that it may be the creek that runs alongside the Duke Energy facility.
2. Monon Crossing
  - i. This project is located at the corner of Morton and Patterson near the B-line trail, right across the street from Sweet Grass. The lot is over an acre, so they have to have a stormwater plan.
  - ii. This site was approved as a PUD over a year or so ago, and the developers did nothing at the site. At the time of approval the developers got permission from DNR and the city to do construction in the floodplain.
  - iii. The developers are asking for is an amendment to the original plan. Instead of three separate apartment buildings, they're going to have one building with several apartments, and the number of units will decrease from 16 down to 14.
    - a. With the one building design, residents can actually own their condo and their lot. The units will be marketed as condominiums and not as student rentals.
    - b. The landscape plan will also include a little pocket park.
    - c. Jung wonders if Madison Street is still ending at the site or if it will or go through.
      1. Thompson says that Madison Street is ending, the neighborhood did not want it to go through and it's going to stay that way.
  - iv. The original memo included recommendations for green building, and a reminder for developers to be mindful of the floodplain.
    - a. The only area which the EC can comment on may be about the building, and there is some question about the unusual street trees, which aren't on the approved list for street trees as they are nut bearing; the City Forester has not made a decision yet about the street tree choices.
      1. Julian wonders whether Forester set a precedent by allowing fruit trees at Mother Hubbard's. Thompson expressed her opinion that she did not think this was the case, as few were likely to remember the Mother Hubbard case.
3. Crest at 11<sup>th</sup>
  - i. The site is on the corner of Walnut and 11<sup>th</sup>, right across the street is High Point, and behind it, adjacent to College, is the Lofts and another apartment building being built.
  - ii. Right now the site is a law office in a building which used to be a house and was added on to. The plan is to demolish the building that's there and build a new apartment complex geared for student housing.
    - a. There is a little yard with trees, and the developers want to get rid of the yard and build a building across the whole front of the lot. The developers are requesting what looks like too much impervious pavement, and they are asking for the building to be taller than the ordinance allows, so they will need to be a waiver for that.

1. The ECPC suggests reusing the limestone from the existing structure, as well as incorporating room for recycling.
2. Whitney wonders about the parking situation.
  - a. Thompson indicates that there will be 17 parking spaces servicing 37 beds.
3. Litwin asks about the bicycle parking facilities.
  - a. Thompson says she does not know for sure what they have, but they aren't asking for any less than they are required to provide.
- iii. The site plan includes a white membrane roof, and lists the incorporation of windows as a sustainable feature as they produce natural light.
  - a. Julian comments on the odd mix of pervious pavers and concrete mix; Thompson says that this configuration is likely the least expensive means to meeting the impervious surface requirement.
- iv. The memo will include the ECPC recommendations of reusing the limestone from the existing structure, incorporating room for recycling and will express concern on the amount of impervious surface.

#### B. Natural Landscaping L4L Committee (5 min: Diane)

1. Jung is attending neighborhood association meetings for L4L and to provide information regarding natural landscaping. So far she has attended one meeting, and is hoping to attend meetings for the Green Acres and Prospect Hill neighborhoods.
  - a. At the Propsect Hill meeting, Jung plans to discuss Mason bee habitat, plants that the bees need when they first come out of their nest in the early spring, and how L4L goes along with Mason bee homes.
  - b. Jung is also hoping to discuss Mason bees with Amy Roche of the Community Orchard soon.
    - i. Whitney asks whether the Mason bees will conflict with honey bees.
    - ii. Jung responds that there shouldn't be any conflict.
2. Jung attended Bloomington Commission On Sustainability (BCOS) and Environmental Quality and Sustainability (EQ&S) meetings, and plans to attend the next MCEC meeting to talk about a collaboration on L4L
  - a. According to Jung, the EQ&S seems receptive to L4L but isn't yet sure of the nature of the collaboration.
3. Jung also completed a draft of the Public Service Announcement, and it is about 50 seconds long, WBSB is going to record it.
4. Jung will be on the Green Spot Tour.
5. EmilyKasnak has offered to table the Farmers Market on Saturday. Jung will come in Friday to help sort through the materials. Piepenburg will also table at the market.
6. Jung has completed a draft of a fact sheet about ways to get rid of weeds and poison ivy without using toxic and chemical sprays for Thompson to review.
7. Jung has identified several grants to apply for, one of which is due July 1<sup>st</sup>, and is looking for people to approach for funding as L4L is already running out of signs. Jung asks anyone who would like to join efforts on grant writing and funding issues to let her know and a group could have a meeting to talk about all the options, some of which are tied to some sort of project that we would then be committed to such as the Archer Grant.
  - a. Thompson cautions about writing grants with too many commitments as she would be responsible for managing the grants.
  - b. Jung is looking into sponsorship from Bloomingfoods, in addition to her article for Bloomingfoods.
8. Jung announces that she had her picture in the Herald Times for a mason bee article. She explains that you can buy mason bee eggs online, and that 250 mason bees can amount to the same amount of pollinating as approximately 20,000 honey bees, but that they only live 6-8 weeks.

9. Jung met someone that had moved to Bloomington from Greenwood mentioned who wondered where could they take their brush clippings, and indicated that in Greenwood, the city would pick up the bows curbside and mulch them for public use.
  - a. Thompson says that in Bloomington you can take your bows to Good Earth.
  - b. Jung also heard from a landscaper that because mulch is so now popular, they are cutting down trees to produce mulch.
10. Jung has planted Jaguar grass in an effort to research grasses that provide a lush look without needing the chemical treatments. So far the Jaguar grass is producing that lush look.

C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

1. Piepenburg has updated the statistics and figures in the waste section.
2. Piepenburg indicates that all of the BEQI sections have been updated relatively recently except for Energy, and that she would meet with Jacqui Bauer to discuss overlap between BCOS's STAR report and the BEQI report before she begins work updating this section.
3. Once the Energy section is update, the whole report may be ready for presentation to the Mayor.

D. Tree Commission report (10 min: Dedaimia)

1. No new business, the Vectron tree issue requires further discussion.
2. Thompson thinks the EC should think about a letter or a policy statement, and she has was found some policies for other cities.
  - a. One city had a 1-1 replacement requirement; another had a table that would have a different replacement ratio depending on the size of the tree. The Department of the Army has one site with a really strict policy; any tree that's 4 inches or larger DBH (diameter at breast height) has to be replaced at a 2-1 ratio, if the tree is less than 20 inches DBH, it must be replaced at 100%, and if the tree is over 36 inches DBH, the tree must be replaced at over 200%. A strict policy has cost going into the tree fund, for example \$200/inch of DBH, and that number increased with the inches of DBH. If it was a very large tree, it would be \$300 per inch. Because you can't put the tree back where it was, the party removing the tree would give money to the tree fund.
  - b. Whitney asks what kind of enforcement power would follow through on this issue.
    - i. Thompson says this depends on the Attorney. The Vectron representative seemed to indicate that Vectron didn't have the right to remove the City trees. Thompson would like to meet with the Attorney, especially since no one appears to be taking the reins on the issue at this time, and Thompson really wants to get something done before it is too late.
  - c. Julian asks what is the threat level is for the City's street trees.
    - i. Thompson says the threat is really significant.
    - ii. Julian suggests that this issue is something the EC should make the City Council aware of, and that some members of the City Council will be pretty upset about the issue.
  - d. Thompson has already run into some landscape plans that show that if we really removed all trees within a 10 foot radius of a gas line, there would essentially be no street trees. A lot of the gas lines are under the street or the sidewalk, and if it's 10 foot back rule, there is not 10 feet from the street to the tree plot in some cases. So if we were going to really be cooperative with Vectron, it would mean we would say no street trees.
    - i. Julian notes that we also need to make developers aware where the gas lines are.
    - ii. Thompson says that when developers do the utility plans, they don't even put the gas line on the plans because gas is not a city utility. For example, Thompson just went out to inspect the new Rural King and they are supposed to plant all the space between the building and the highway with trees, but there's a high tension line above the area and a gas line running right under it; these facts weren't on the landscape plan, so whoever approved the landscape plan didn't know and didn't

put boots on the ground, and so Rural King can't possibly comply with their landscape plan.

- iii. The developers whom Thompon has talked to about the gas line can't be bothered to include them on their plans.
- iv. Whitney asserts that Thompson has really broadened the issue; when she first heard about this she didn't initially appreciate the global significance. The Tree Commission is concerned about the trees, but the Planning Commission has to be concerned about the issue as well. She urges Thompson to write a policy.
  1. Thompson indicates that if she wrote the policy it would have to go through her boss and through the mayor, but if the EC wrote the policy it can go straight to the Tree Commission.
  2. Whitney says we should draft something, and that she would take it to the tree commission.
  3. Julian says that there are portions for commission reports at City Council Meetings, and thinks we should schedule a commission report with the council about this issue.
- v. Litwin asks whether the City or the EC has documentation from Vectron about their plans.
  1. Thompson says no, we have no documentation, and that Vectron wouldn't provide it her when she called and inquired. She tried searching online, and found something in the Code of Federal Register which may be the policy that Vectron is referencing, but it didn't seem to be something specific like Vectron's policy at all. She couldn't find anything specific, but she isn't sure if she looked at the right place or if the policy is an internal product from Vectron.
- vi. Whitney says that the Tree Commission meets the day before the EC, and asks whether the EC can have a special meeting to vote on a possible street tree policy proposal.
  1. The EC will consider the special session and will communicate over email about the issue.

E. Climate Action Plan report (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Steven)

1. Flowers is working on a Climate Action Plan, and so far the scope of the plan looks at what has been done in the past and updating this past work into a larger plan, looking ahead at 3 years or so.
2. So far the committee has created about 40-45 action areas in different policy areas, and plan to have a final plan drafted in the next 6 weeks or so, so it can be presented to the Mayor.
3. A GHG inventory for the City government has already been completed by BCOS, and a community wide inventory could be the next step.

6. Old business (15 min)

(Time mark 8:13 pm)

A. Bug Fest update (10 min: Diane)

1. The event will be 10-4 on Hilltop on Saturday.

B. Taste of Bloomington update (5 min: Carrie)

7. New business (20 min)

(Time mark 8:15 pm)

A. Parks & rec Green Spots tour (10 min: Kriste)

1. The tour will be June 29<sup>th</sup>, Jung's garden will be on the tour. Thompson reported that Lindberg said she hadn't decided on the spots yet.

B. Schedule for EC guest speakers (10 min: Carrie)

1. Marc Tschida of the Monroe County Public Library is a central point for non-profit organization information and is coming in to the next meetings either to say a few words or he may be on the agenda.
  2. Whitney will obtain the name of the man who works with land trusts.
8. Commissioner announcements (15 min)
- A. Jung wonders whether the time of the meeting to be earlier in the evening.
    1. Thompson indicated that the time is not written in code.
    2. The EC will consider this issue.
  - B. Litwin announces that he attended the Parks Department Environmental Resources Advisory Committee last week, and the Karst Trail had to be put on hold because of government budget restraints, and the committee is still planning to drain sediment out of Lake Griffy and hauling it to Winston Thomas Settling Basin for treatment.
    1. Litwin also attended two Master Plan Steering Committee meetings, and both regarded environmental issues, summary items include creating a green infrastructure plan, reduce solid waste by 5% annually, instituting an energy efficiency program such as a 15-10-5 program, where the City is responsible for a 15% reduction, urban areas must reduce by 10%, and 5% of area houses will be retrofit for energy efficiency. Urban agriculture was also on the agenda. The last element discussed was "Human Condition", which focused on high school graduation rates. Apparently the graduation rate in the 1950s was under 50%. The Parks Department talked about their health and wellness outreach program, and the meeting also included a discussion about mental health.
      - i. Whitney asks whether the report that Steven and his committee is working on is coming up with a table of projects to reduce GHG, as the Climate Action Plan committee is talking about formatting the report in such a fashion, and that this could go to the Master Plan Committee. Litwin will send environmental bullet points to Flowers.
  - C. Piepenburg announces that the Conditions of Agreement database has hit some roadblocks and she will be meeting with someone in ITS to discuss options going forward. Also, Piepenburg will be the Volunteer Coordinator for the City's first Open Streets event, which will take place on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
9. Adjournment (Time mark 8:24 pm)
- A. Litwin moves to adjourn. Gorman seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, July 18, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

### **Attending:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Sean Gorman, Dianne May, Chaim Julian, Linda Thompson (Staff), Jayne Piepenburg (intern), Steven Flowers (intern)

### **Absent:**

Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Deborah Myerson, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Dedaimia Whitney, Diane Jung

1. Introductions (5 min) (Time mark 7:03 pm)
2. Announcements (8 min) (Time mark 7:05 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
    1. May suggests altering the meeting date by one week due to anticipated absences. Albright says she will contact the commissioners over email to discuss this possibility.
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
    1. Of the three cases for this meeting, two were continued. Thompson will be out of town for this meeting and so either Pat Shay of the Planning Dept. will lead the meeting to discuss the one case or else the meeting may be canceled.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: August 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30 am, Bryan Park
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: August 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: August 14<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
3. Approval of May minutes (5 min) (Time mark: 7:08 pm)
  - A. Because there is no quorum, approval of the June minutes is postponed until the next meeting.
4. Public comment (5 min) (Time mark 7:09 pm)
5. Guest speaker: Mark Tschida, MCPL (15 min) (Time mark: 7:10 pm)
  - A. Guest speaker, who has set up a program or place for non-profit organizations at the Monroe County Public Library, wanted to speak at the meeting tonight, but was absent. Albright will contact Tschida to see if he wanted to come in at another time or if he had a message to pass on.
6. Committee reports & discussions (35 min) (Time mark 7:12 pm)
  - A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
    1. Three cases on the Planning Commission agenda,; two cases are old, Trinitas and The Crest, and were discussed last month. There aren't any changes to these cases, and the changes aren't due until next Monday.
    2. Tiffany Clark, a mixed-use building on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on the South side between the cleaners and the old historic dry cleaners. It is a tiny lot, less than 0.2 acres. The developer wants to tear

down the existing structure and construct a three story building with a usable roof. The first floor will have a small café with a full restaurant kitchen; back against the alley there will be a patio with outdoor seating. The second floor will have four small studio apartments, under 600 ft<sup>2</sup>, and the third floor will be a three bedroom apartment for the building owner. The roof of the building will be divided into thirds: one third will be a green roof, one third will be a covered patio for the three-bedroom apartment, and the last one-third will be covered with solar panels.

- i. The developers are asking for a waiver for building height for the sake of the solar panels, and they are asking for a waiver to have smaller setbacks due to the size of the lot. They are also asking for less parking than normal (for example, they would like two parking spots for themselves and no parking for the café or for the other residents), and they are asking for a waiver to have more impervious surface because of the smaller setbacks. They also would like a waiver for the architectural standards of the upper story windows as the style of the building is more modern.
- ii. The developers have not yet submitted a landscape plan; there will be trees in the back patio, and maybe some street trees, but otherwise the plantings will be very minimal. But, because of the green roof and likely potted plants, the overall footprint of the project is likely to be acceptable.

#### B. Natural Landscaping L4L Committee (5 min: Diane)

1. Jung provided the following notes in an email to the EC prior to the meeting:
  - a. The June 22 Bug Fest was fabulous. Jung talked all day about Mason Bees and every L4L sign she had with her was taken.
  - b. People have been catching Jung on the street to request a sign. She's just about completely out now but has placed another order for around 25 more signs.
  - c. Jung gave presentations to the Near West Side and Prospect Hill Bloomington Neighborhood Associations and is scheduled for August 1 with McDoel Gardens and a presentation has been requested but no date set yet with one of the East Side Neighborhood Associations.
  - d. Jung may be working with Cynthia Bretheim of Prospect Hill to submit an application for a Bloomington Small and Simple grant. She hopes this will include a request for combined funding for Mason Bee habitats, Butterfly habitats, and Lawns for Life signs for the neighborhood.
  - e. Jung is discussing a possible collaboration for a grant with the Bloomington Community Orchard for developing a large mason bee habitat at the orchard and tying in with Lawns for Life. They expressed interest and enthusiasm.
  - f. Jung is beginning to have a better understanding of the synergies that make sense to collaborate for grants that can include L4L signs.
  - g. Jung was out of town on June 29 and it rained last Saturday so it's been a few weeks since she has been at the Farmers Market but she was there all morning last Saturday and will continue to table whenever possible. Everyone is welcome to join her anytime.
  - h. Jung was asked to provide an article for the B'f's online newsletter and a draft will be submitted via Linda Thompson for review.
  - i. In the next few months, Jung will attend a Monroe County Environmental Commission meeting to discuss a possible collaboration for Lawns for Life.
  - j. Please see the attached file [Ways to get rid of Weeds and Poison Ivy]. Jung requests that this be reviewed at the July 18 meeting for possible approval of materials to be available at the Farmers Market.

#### C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

1. The Energy section will be simple to update, but Piepenburg is still waiting for certain parties to send needed data, but hopes that this information will come through soon so that the BEQI report can be finalized and prepared for presentation to the Mayor.

D. Tree Commission report (10 min: Dedaimia)

1. Discussion postponed until Dedaimia returns. Thompson and Piepenburg will meet with City Forester Lee Huss on Friday.

E. Climate Action Plan report (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Steven)

1. Flowers' project has slightly changed direction and he is now working on a community-wide Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory in order to evaluate whether the mayor's pledge of a 7% reduction in GHG by 2012 was met. This means that the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been put on hold, as it will be informed by the new GHG inventory. Flowers indicated that it is common in other cities to conduct a GHG inventory every three years, and that this is a good model for Bloomington to follow.

7. Old business (37 min)

(Time mark 8:13 pm)

A. Bug Fest update (10 min: Diane)

1. The event was very successful; Thompson ate her first meal worm, and she indicated that it tasted like pine nuts.

B. Taste of Bloomington update (5 min: Carrie)

1. Albright said that she and Jacqueline Bauer had a post-event meeting to assess what went well and what didn't; she said in some ways the effort was really effective.
2. Piepenburg will consult with Albright and Moncavage about recycling for Open Streets.

C. Green Spots tour (2 min: Kristie)

1. Event was cancelled due to low participation.

D. Street tree statement for EC discussion (20 min)

1. Interns Flowers and Piepenburg prepared a report. Friday morning, Thompson and Piepenburg will meet with Lee Huss.
2. Gorman wonders about permit scrutiny. Thompson says that Huss looks at the permits, and that they need to be posted. As far as for enforcement, and who in the city to check whether trees were cut down or replanted, the answer is unclear. While there is a rule on the books, it is unclear whether there is staff to enforce this rule.
3. A permit is required three days in advance of work notice for the community; when the city removes a tree on its own, the city has to give ten days' notice.
4. Gorman wonders on what basis Parks would deny a tree permit. Thompson indicates that the city does not permit the removal of healthy trees unless they are a nuisance or danger or some other threat.
5. A proposal that uses a diameter range would be tricky as it requires a lot of "checking up." Thompson says unauthorized removal of healthy trees is not a huge issue in Bloomington, but we are discussing the issue because of Vectron. Should we or shouldn't we allow them to just go ahead; it is a difficult situation because they are going to keep moving throughout the City. It's only major companies that are funded on a much larger scale that are causing these issues, so making replacement ratios or fees very steep may be a good thing.
  - a. Albright suggests we could have a fee structure which would differentiate between residential and commercial requests.
6. Thompson says she isn't sure whether the EC should go for a tree-for-tree policy, diameter for diameter, money for tree, money for diameter, or some other option. The reason why they're taking the tree should theoretically be valid, and so it makes sense that they will not be able to replant the tree in the same location as the tree they are removing.

- a. Albright believes in setting the bar high and believes that the responsibility, and thus the money, should be put into the hands of Huss and his team, as they have a larger plan for the city and can adapt for growth.
  - b. Julian says that this will discourage Vectron's plans as well. He also advocates taking this issue to the City Council.
7. Gorman would like there to be more notice when there is going to be a removal of street trees.

E. Guest speaker update (11 min: Carrie)

1. Albright would like to establish a short list of people that the EC can invite for a 15-30 minute discussion, and what month these speakers should or would like to come. So far, Albright has contacted the following:
  - a. Lew May discussing transit
  - b. Matt Press for green infrastructure
  - c. Rachel Atz for water quality
  - d. The county Environmental Commission to get an idea of how they do thing in county meetings.
2. Albright hasn't yet contacted:
  - a. Mike Hicks, who might discuss environmental efforts undertaken by the city.
  - b. Kevin Tunesvick to discuss planting/gardening in a climate change context
  - c. Whitney's contact regarding land trusts or urban land trusts and how Bloomington can participate in this type of activity.
  - d. David Gulyas, who is the owner of a platinum rated LEED certified house in Bloomington
  - e. A representative from SIREN to discuss solar energy, perhaps lingering tax incentives, and how the technology has advanced.
  - f. Someone from IU to discuss the environmental/sustainability initiatives going on at the university. Perhaps Bill Brown or Emily Rex can be contacted to see who has a good pulse on everything that's going on at the university.
3. Albright says that when we actually invite a speaker, we should send out conversation topics a week or two before they arrive regarding what issues might apply the EC.
4. Gorman suggest that we should get the word out to the public to encourage attendance to our speaker series, such as other boards and commissions or City Council members. Thompson says that the EC can reserve the Council Chambers if we are expecting a large crowd.

8. New business (30 min)

(Time mark 8:06 pm)

A. Meeting start time for completion of 2013 (10 min)

1. Commissioners should contact Albright with ideas for new meeting times if this is desirable; otherwise the discussion is postponed.

B. Commission representative schedule (10 min)

1. Moncavage indicated to Albright that attending BCOS meetings all the time was causing conflict with her work obligations, and Albright thought that the EC could have some sort of rolling list for who will attend other commission meetings each month.
2. Julian asks whether when we send a memo to the Planning Commission if we make a presentation. Thompson says no, but that the EC can do so if they want, and has done so in the past for important cases such as those regarding larger or more rural tracts of land with significant environmental concerns. However, we haven't made this kind of presentation in a long time. Julian brings up Japanee and Kilroy's as cases where the EC has had some serious concerns and asked whether they should make presentations for cases like this.
3. Albright wonders if there used to more EC representation at other commission meetings, but Thompson says no, the EC is doing better now as far as attending other meetings. Also, as far as whether EC member attendance at other commission meetings appears on those respective commissions agendas, the answer is sometimes yes and sometimes no.

4. Julian is very interested in attending the MPO meetings.
5. Gorman thinks we can sign up to attend other commission meetings during the announcement portion of EC meetings. Albright says that this may be tried next month.

C. Downtown parking requirements (10 min: Whitney)

1. Thompson reports that Whitney was concerned about the amount of parking that is currently being proposed for new apartment buildings and other developments, such as the project on Washington Street near the jewelry store, but it's not clear what precisely Whitney wants to discuss. Thompson says that this is a rather big issue, as the idea of wanting more parking goes against what the EC has always stood for in the past. Whitney's point of view is that the parking requirements are not realistic for the city's use, and this is a big discussion.
2. Julian sees Whitney's point of view, and says that the EC should discourage people from using cars to go downtown, but people do need cars to go long distances, to go outside the city, or to go to areas that are not accessible by bus.
3. Albright says that she agrees that it can be hard to get out of town without a car, but doesn't necessarily think it makes sense from the EC perspective to argue for more parking. She wonders whether this issue can be brought up with the Board of Public Works.
4. Julian does think that this issue is in our purview and that the EC should take a position.
5. Gorman says that the EC should be forward looking, and he believes that the city should have less parking and prepare for alternative transportation, car sharing, and so on to be more important in the future.
6. Albright says that this discussion will be continued next month.

9. Commissioner announcements (10 min)

(Time mark: 8:23 pm)

- A. Thompson received a thank-you card from the Master Gardener's Association for tabling at the Master Gardener's Garden Show in April.
- B. Piepenburg says she met with someone from ITS about the feasibility of porting the Conditions of Agreement database to a web app and is feeling encouraged; she really wants to continue the project even though it has moved somewhat out of her area of expertise. She announces that she and Thompson will be testing the database at sites on Friday. Also, Piepenburg announces that her landfill gas capturing analysis paper has been sent around and she has heard that that the project has been picked up by some other individuals in the city, and that landfill gas flaring or capturing is still a possibility in the future for the Monroe County Landfill.

10. Adjournment

(Time mark 8:36 pm)

- A. Albright moves to adjourn. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, August 22, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – Hooker Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Kristie Lindberg, Deborah Myerson, Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice-Chair), Dianne May, Louise Sharrow, Chaim Julian, Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

**Absent:**

Sean Gorman, Linda Thompson (Staff), Diane Jung, Dedaimia Whitney

1. Introductions (5 min) (Time mark 7:06 pm)
  - A. Louise Sharrow, new Environmental Commissioner introduced. She is a second-year MPA student in SPEA studying policy analysis and urban environmental policy. She is just returning to Bloomington having completed an internship in Chicago with the Environmental Law and Policy Center.
2. Announcements (8 min) (Time mark 7:07 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: August 28<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: September 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Bryan Park
    1. Whitney is slated to attend this meeting pending her confirmation.
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
    1. Moncavage will attend this meeting.
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: September 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
    1. Diane Jung will attend this meeting pending her confirmation.
3. Approval of June and July minutes (5 min) (Time mark 7:09 pm)
  - a. Albright moves to approve the June minutes by vote, Litwin seconds. The vote passes 3-0. Myerson, Lindberg, Albright, Sharrow and Moncavage abstain.
  - b. Albright moves to approve the July minutes by vote. The minutes are approved by a vote of 3-0. Litwin, Lindberg, Myerson, Moncavage, and Sharrow abstain.
4. Public comment (5 min) (Time mark 7:12 pm)
5. Committee reports & discussions (45 min) (Time mark 7:13 pm)
  - A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Dianne, Mike, Linda)
    - a. Thompson is not in attendance at this meeting, so projects are not discussed at length. Piepenburg reports that there was only one project on the agenda, a downtown building on the B-line; because of the type of development, Piepenburg suggests that there is likely little for the Environmental Commission to recommend aside from green building practices and recycling facilities.
  - B. L4L Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

- a. Jung is not in attendance, so updates for the Natural Landscaping Committee will be made at the September meeting.
- C. BEQI Committee energy discussion and Conditions of Agreement update (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)
  - a. Piepenburg is still waiting to receive data from certain individuals to update the BEQI Energy section.
  - b. Piepenburg explained the Conditions of Agreement database for new commissioner Sharrow. She is meeting with Thompson to learn to interpret roll plans on Monday so that she can try and fill in all of the needed conditions for given sites and make the database truly functional.
- D. Tree Commission report (10 min: Dedaimia)
  - a. Dedaimia isn't here today
- E. Climate Action Plan report (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Steven)
  - a. Albright reads aloud a letter from Flowers:
    - i. "I am currently working on completing a 2012 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the Bloomington community. This inventory includes all GHG emissions within Bloomington city limits including private sources such as commercial and industry. Once the inventory is complete, the Commission will know if Bloomington met its goal of a 7% emissions reduction in 2012 from 1990. Following the inventory, the Commission will be better prepared to create a climate action plan founded in recent GHG data. With the assistance of the EPA GHG calculator tool, I am following the GHG Protocol that outlines normed calculation methods and allows for comparison to other municipal inventories. There have been a few challenges in creating accurate data according to the protocol as the document is a year young, evolving, and assumes data is available. In consultation with Linda, we have been able to work through the challenges and make estimates for missing data. It is my hopes to have all of the data collected by September 20th and a written report completed by October 4th. Once the GHG inventory is complete, I can return to drafting a climate action plan. I intend to meet with the CAP Committee during this time and have a finalized climate action plan ready for approval by the Commission in December."
  - b. Myerson wonders whether the data reflecting sectors that might have been affected or might be affected by climate change actions items recommended by the EC can be analyzed independently to help see the direct impact of Environmental Condition recommendations, to show how effective certain measures were in terms of affecting total GHG emissions.
    - i. Albright agrees that Myerson's idea is good, and that the potential for this should be discussed with Flowers.

6. Old business (20 min)

(Time mark 7:38 pm)

- A. Guest speaker update (5 min: Carrie)
  - a. No news, Carrie was on vacation. Myerson wonders what list we're working with, Carrie says there's a long list in the July minutes.
- B. Street tree removal recommendation from EC (15 min: Linda, Jayne)
  - a. Piepenburg read aloud her notes from Thompson and Piepenburg's meeting with City Forester Lee Huss, as follows:
    - i. Currently there are two cities that Lee knows of in Indiana in which the City Forester has authorization for violations: Evansville and Anderson. There is no one currently "in charge" of monitoring/compliance of these issues in Bloomington—there may be some designated power in the ordinances, but no one has taken on the authority to actually do anything. Citizen violation of the ordinance is very uncommon. Lee likes the idea of developers compensating the City for tree removal, and he recommends the value of trees being determined by a plant appraiser; the developer would have to pay a consultant for an appraised value. This would be the fairest valuation of the lost resources. Lee knows of several licensed tree appraisers in Indiana; these are not foresters, but consulting arborists. Linda wonders if they take into consideration CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration for trees, or if they use the National Tree Benefit Calculator. Lee says that the appraised value is highly related to tree species and size. Linda

suggests that the City could take the appraised value and charge the developers double that as the equivalent of 2:1 replacement, or in another way charge the developers more than the appraised value. Lee wonders whether there should be a distinction in the requirements between utilities versus developers. For road projects, the DNR makes the City of Bloomington replace the trees at a 2:1 ratio [the City only requires a replacement ratio of 1.2:1]. Lee advocates for a case-by-case policy until the ordinance is changed, and would like to see full cost accounting for trees. As for the issues of permit lead time, Lee says that he reviews the permit, and while a designated time frame may be in the ordinance, he deals with permit applications in his own time and it doesn't seem like the 3-day/10-day rule is currently enforced.

b. Litwin says the UDO is going to be updated, but not for several years, so it might make more sense to shoot for an amendment rather than for the city to adopt a new ordinance altogether. Albright wonders if the Environmental Commission should prepare a literal amendment or simply present a statement of our views. Moncavage asks whether the Environmental Commission should be consulting with the Tree Commission. Julian recalls that when Whitney reported on the Vectron issue from the Tree Commission that she suggested their attitude towards the issue was undecided. Albright suggests that the Environmental Commission should contact the Tree Commission to find out if they're interested in weighing in on our proposed amendment; Julian adds that the Environmental Commission should include a rough outline of the amendment, not the actual language, but the basic points and terms of what we want to include. Albright, Piepenburg, and Thompson will communicate about this and draft a letter to the tree commission, and then the Environmental Commission will construct and vote on a letter to send to the City Council.

7. New business (25 min) (Time mark 7:56 pm)
- A. Weeds & Poison Ivy brochure discussion (15 min: Diane)
    - a. Lindberg and Albright suggest that Jung bring a draft of the brochure to the next meeting; Litwin asks whether Jung could send the updated draft around again before the September meeting.
  - B. Fall intern projects (10 min)
    - a. Since Flowers will stay on and continue to work on the GHG Inventory and CAP into the Fall, there isn't any new business to discuss regarding Fall intern projects.
8. Commissioner announcements (15 min) (Time mark 8:10 pm)
- a. Moncavage attended the BCOS meeting last Tuesday to find out it was cancelled.
  - b. May is resigning from the Commission because of her health. All of the commissioners wish her well and hope that if she ever feels better that she will return to the commission!
  - c. Sharrow asked what the committees are and what she should sign up for; Albright offered to forward the list of committees and committee membership to Sharrow so she can decide which committees she wants to join.
  - d. Piepenburg reminds the Commission about Open Streets and encourages all commissioners to volunteer at the event, which will take place from 10am-3pm on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Myerson asks whether Open Streets was intentionally planned the same weekend as (Park)ing Day; Piepenburg is not aware whether that's the case, but says that if not, it is a neat coincidence!
  - e. Julian thinks that Bloomington Transit has a great opportunity right now to advertise since the parking meter installation. He thinks they can improve their ridership and hopes they can add more routes, and increase the frequency of busses that currently run hourly, such as 1N or others. Julian also lets the Commission know that the first Thursday of next month at Coaches there will be a meeting related to the "Science of 9-11"; the previous topic for this same event was related to Stand Your Ground laws and the Trevon Martin case with input from an IU law professor, and that content will be available online later.
  - f. Litwin missed the Parks Department Environmental Council meeting, but it was cancelled; he did go to the Master Plan Steering Committee Meeting for Imagine Bloomington, and the topic was transportation. Litwin reports that there was lots of discussion of bus ridership at the meeting (in fact they provided 20 years worth of Bloomington Transit ridership data). They discussed how by and large people who ride the bus are people

that have to ride the bus because they don't have vehicles, and talked about the idea of park and ride with shuttle buses to go downtown. A shuttle bus has been tried previously in Bloomington from Bryan Park to the IU Campus, but it was eliminated in response to complaints from the neighborhood regarding traffic. Litwin also brought up a couple of transportation-related issues at the meeting, such as how the MPO has their own long-range planning process and it seems logical that this process should be linked with the Master Plan, and how pollution from street runoff is a serious issue and that the city should address this issue in their planning process for transportation. Several meeting participants noted that transportation forms other than automobiles are likely to become more prevalent in the future; Litwin himself suggested that current traffic statistics might overestimate real traffic flows, and not account for alternative transportation movements that are occurring in the city such as increased scooter usage. The topic at the August 14<sup>th</sup> Imagine Bloomington meeting was Economic and Sustainable Development, but Litmin missed this meeting. Summaries of the meetings are on the Imagine Bloomington website.

g. Lindberg announces that the city had a water quality audit last Tuesday and it went really well, and said that the auditors really liked Lawns for Life and other city initiatives. Additionally, she related her experience visiting southern Italy and connecting with the country's environmental group, Legambiente. During her visit, she met many interesting and informative people, was involved with work projects, became a member, and is now looking into the possibility of collaboration between Legambiente and the Environmental Commission. Lindberg also mentioned "Science Cafe" talks, which are held at Finch's.

h. Myerson announces that the urban planning course which she's teaching at SPEA has a service learning component; she is looking at several locations in the city in which environmental issues might come through; students will write redevelopment plans for these sites. Some possibilities include the convention center expansion, the old transit station, K-Mart east, the old post office, and the Vectron office across from the Wonderlab, which is an abandoned site, but a site that could probably be better used; so, the students might write a plan for what they want the city to promote there if Vectron were to move elsewhere. Also Myerson noticed that the Parks Department pamphlet lists a tree identification course (Mystery Tree Hunt) for kids, and she wonders what the Environmental Commission can do to promote environmental awareness amongst children, building on what Eco-Heroes seeks to do.

i. Albright mentions that there's a Green Drinks coming up, August 28 from 5:30-7:30 at Upland, the speaker is Shahzeen Z. Attari and the topic for is Public Perceptions and Biases Related to Energy and Water Consumption.

## 9. Adjournment

(Time mark 8:47 pm)



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, September 19, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Chaim Julian, Louise Sharrow, Sean Gorman, Mike Litwin, Diane Jung, Kristie Lindberg, Deborah Myerson, Linda Thompson (Staff), Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

**Absent:**

Dedaimia Whitney, Carissa Moncavage (Vice Chair)

- I. Introductions (5 min) (Time Mark: 7:02 pm)
- II. Announcements (10 min)
- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: September 25<sup>th</sup>, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: October 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
    - 1. Sharrow will attend.
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
  - F. Next ERAC meeting: October 9<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, Bryan Park in the North Shelter
  - G. Next MPO meeting:
    - Citizens Advisory Committee: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm, McCloskey Room
    - Policy Committee: October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm, Council Chambers
    - Technical Advisory Committee: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am, McCloskey Room
      - 1. Julian will attend September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - H. Hügelskultur workshop: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 4790 N. Mt. Gilead Rd.
  - I. Chinampas workshop: October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-1, 4790 N. Mt. Gilead Rd
  - J. Open Streets: September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 – 3:00, West Kirkwood Ave
- III. Approval of Minutes (5 min)
- A. Litwin moves to approve the minutes. Julian seconds. Gorman and Jung abstain from voting. The motion passes unanimously.
- IV. Public comment (20 min)
- A. Chad Roeder
    - 1. Roeder operates the currently-closed Downtown Recycling Center as well as Pedal Power. The Center had to close in late August primarily because of many operational factors, such as the high cost of shipping and the low value of materials, proved in the long term to be unsustainable.
      - a. During this hiatus, Roeder reports there have been some changes, such as a new glass buyer. The Downtown Recycling Center no longer uses Republic, but will now use Strategic Materials. Strategic Materials is not paying for the glass, but they aren't charging for it, either.

- b. Plastics were very difficult without a compactor. Now Roeder reports the Downtown Recycling Center will use the “bag method” for plastics, rather than the “roll-off method”. The Monroe County Green Business Network will be helping to handle the plastics; Roeder says that it’s not the best solution, but it is better than what they had before. This new plastics system also frees up space for Strategic Materials to leave an additional glass container when they tote one away.
  - c. Bowater will now handle paper recycling. The Downtown Recycling Center will also have more room for more paper bins which will help resolve some of the overflow issues they were having with paper. The Downtown Recycling Center will continue to make \$20/ton for paper, which is about 50% of market value. Roeder says this is fine.
  - d. Metals will be continued to be handled at a near-by scrap yard. Roeder has hooked up with the Martin County Solid Waste Management District, who will come with their packer truck once a week. The cardboard will be loaded into the packer truck which will save on shipping and other costs. Previously, working with Republic Services, the Downtown Recycling Center was getting somewhere between 20-30% market value for paper, and the glass cost would be subtracted from profits from paper. Martin County will pay 90% of the market value for cardboard.
2. With all these factors in place, Roeder says that it is going to be a “complete 180” in terms of factors on-site. Over the past two years, the Downtown Recycling Center has towed over 600 tons of materials. Since June of 2013, the Downtown Recycling Center pulled in about 375 tons of material. This puts the Downtown Recycling Center on par with some of the District’s rural sites.
  3. The city is going to allow the Downtown Recycling Center to continue operating in the parking lot on a year-to-year basis. They haven’t been able to secure any funding from the city or the Solid Waste District; the Solid Waste District has a rather sensitive contract with Republic. Roeder believes that the changes we have made will allow the operation to be more sustainable. Roeder hopes that this will also ripple in the community and that the community will begin to advocate against the monolithic monopoly utility for trash.
  4. Since the Downtown Recycling Center hasn’t been able to get funding from any government sources, they are going to be reaching out to the community; Roeder believes the Downtown Recycling Center needs to appeal to the public for funding and to spread the word, as well as to engender public involvement in the project. Revenues from materials alone are not enough to keep the operation going.
  5. The Downtown Recycling Center opened recycling up to a whole new demographic in the city that may not have been able to recycle in the past. Roeder thinks it’s important to keep it going, and that there are enough people with the talent, drive, and desire to forge ahead and look for new innovative solutions to what has been a perennial problem.
  6. Jung asks what the Environmental Commission can do to help the Downtown Recycling Center’s cause.
  7. Roeder responds that the problems with the Downtown Recycling center are both economic and political. He can only guess what is keeping the Solid Waste District from allowing a community collection center. Roeder thinks that focusing on a community-owned MRF that will handle all kinds of materials and keep all revenue from that site local will create a more sustainable future for recycling the community. Given the numbers that have been put up, the potential for savings and environmental impact, Roeder can’t see why this kind of project hasn’t happened already. So, the problems are political as well as economic.
  8. Litwin says that the Master Planning Steering Committee discussed this issue, and that he can see this Committee as being a useful venue for advocacy.
  9. Roeder responds that The UDO has no description of a recycling center, but only for Salvage and Scrapyard in a zoned downtown district.
  10. Litwin says that the UDO update process will follow the Master Plan update.
  11. Thompson adds that if the UDOs being amended, it would not be difficult at all to add this to the UDO. However, with politics, every word counts, but even so Thompson thinks that this distinction was just overlooked last time
  12. Gorman asks whether Roeder has identified a permanent location for the facility.
  13. Roeder says that he is perhaps looking to locate the facility somewhere near B-Line and Rogers street. He says that a small section of this area might be adequate. Roeder thinks that the CTP development is directed largely by the city’s Department of Sustainable and Economic Development, and he doesn’t think it’s in the interest of this department to have a recycling center at this location because of the tax boon generated from

the certified tech park. Roeder would like a recycling center and also other sustainable businesses and innovation, such as a canopy of solar panels, urban farming, a café, all offering transitional job opportunities. Roeder would have the bailer on the site, and would sell the fibrous materials directly to market to really make top dollar. Roeder says that this can be done in a clean, quiet, unobtrusive way if you have an intelligent plan. Roeder would run a clean, neat, impactful operation, creating other amenities on site, such as an exercise facility, and in sum creating a Bloomington Eco Park. Roeder envisions this endeavor to be educational, inspirational, useful, and offer economic development. Roeder believes there are enough people with the skills to accomplish this vision in the area, but he's hoping to get someone else to take over the recycling facility.

14. Myerson asks whether Roeder has considered involving the IU Office of Sustainability.
15. Roeder responds that the IU Office of Sustainability is not yet involved, and now that Bloomington Pedal Power is going away, he's going to focus all his attention on generating revenue at the recycling center, and he's got to move on to other pastures, as he's starting a new job part time, leading to full time, consulting for Waste Management. Roeder doesn't want anything that he and others have done to go away. Roeder reiterates that the Downtown Recycling Center is facing political and economic issues, and he believes that himself not being as intimately involved in the project will be a key to its success. At the end of year, if nothing has happened, so be it.
16. Albright asks how the Environmental Commission can be an advocate for this project. She says that it seems like Roeder is looking to set up some sort of nonprofit. She asks whether this process is something that the Environmental Commission can be helpful in, or perhaps in reaching out to the contacts we have?
17. Roeder responds that he now feels more confident that a typical volunteer would be able to step in to working at the Downtown Recycling Center or some kind of broader recycling operation for a few hours with a little bit of training. Due to the amount of work involved for the manager of the project, Roeder believes that there should be a salary involved. If the Downtown Recycling Center were to work with the Center for Sustainable Living or become a nonprofit, it could take advantage of the related benefits—perhaps establishing the Bloomington Recycling Coalition. He might also pursue interns.
18. Jung points out that there are many potential service learning opportunities with this project.
19. Roeder says that the Downtown Recycling Center helped interns complete a total of 400 hours of service learning last year. Bet Savich also said that the Downtown Recycling Center can take advantage of the Bloomington Volunteer Network. Now that the Downtown Recycling Center has diversified its vendors, Roeder believes that spell that was over the facility is broken, and he has a positive outlook for the facility in the future. He still believes that an Eco Park and not just a recycling facility would be great in the future.
20. The problem with getting under the umbrella with the Monroe County Solid Waste District is their contract with Republic.
21. More information about the Downtown Recycling Center can be found at [Bloomingtonrecycles.com](http://Bloomingtonrecycles.com), and Roeder's email address is [chadroeder@gmail.com](mailto:chadroeder@gmail.com).
  - a. Currently on this website/blog there is a basic description as why the facility had to close in the first place and the site will soon have an article about how it is reopening.
  - b. The Downtown Recycling Center will also be rebranded as the Bloomington Community Recycling Facility, as the community really are the major partners in the project. Before, Roeder was treating this project as if it were a city or municipal project, but it never has been, and so now it is going to take a much different shape, and Roeder will be reaching out to the public in a big way.
22. Albright offers many thanks on behalf of the Environmental Commission to Roeder for coming in and informing the Environmental Commission about the status of this project.

## B. Presentation of Open Streets

- a. What is Open Streets?
  - i. Close a street to cars to open the street to people--walking, biking, pogo-sticking, dancing, running, roller skating, climbing, hula-hooping...anything and everything!
  - ii. Streets are public spaces, and this event temporarily converts a street to a linear park filled with activities.
  - iii. Over 80 Open Streets initiatives across the US and Canada, sometimes occurring every Sunday.
- b. Why Open Streets?

- i. Community health
- ii. Promote active living
- iii. Try new activities—walking and biking in a safe environment
- iv. Features local businesses
- v. Fun, free
- c. Activity Hosts:
  - i. IU Health, Hoosier Heights, YMCA, BBC, IU Ballroom Dance, Ritmos Latinos, Urban Fitness Studio, Vibe Yoga, Xcel Performance, Blues without Dues, Panache Dance, Jazzercise, Next Generation Personal Training and Fitness, IU Gaelic Hurling Club, Hoosier Crossfit, Team Effect Inc/Holler Hoppin Zip Lines, WFHB Community Radio
- d. How to be involved:
  - i. Host an activity
  - ii. Volunteer at the event
  - iii. Be a sponsor
  - iv. Promote the event:
    - 1. Like us on Facebook
    - 2. Invite people to attend (in person or via Facebook)
    - 3. Hang posters, distribute save the dates
- e. The route will be from College to Rogers
- f. The event is September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10-3.

V. Committee reports & discussions (45 min)

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

- 1. OMB Bank
  - a. The city is not in favor of this petition. The project was going to be four lots with primarily student housing.
  - b. The developers also want a drive-through bank on the first floor. They will probably get the variance because several other banks have already gotten the variance. It is not the bank that the city has a problem with, but the city is very opposed to more apartments on Kirkwood.
  - c. Myerson asks whether it is because the proposal is for student housing.
  - d. Thompson says basically yes, but that the city can't use this alone as justification. Students are not a protected class, but it is still a difficult political distinction.
  - e. Julian asks whether these apartments are the ones that will be very expensive.
  - f. Thompson says they will be very expensive.
  - g. Gorman says there have been several new developments with apartments attached on Kirkwood, like the Rubicon.
  - h. Thompson says that this is true, and that the buildings have to be mixed-use. She thinks the city has reached a breaking point on apartments on Kirkwood and the administration doesn't want much more.
  - i. Gorman says that there is a public perception issue about Kirkwood being made more for students.
  - j. Myerson asks whether there is a way to encourage mixed housing. Perhaps the number of bedrooms?
  - k. Thompson says that there are ways to do that—she says it depends upon what amenities are provided, but student housing stipulations aren't in any regulation.
  - l. Litwin says that student housing the easiest development for which to get a loan approved.
  - m. Thompson agrees, and adds that the developers don't make as much money on the commercial first floor as they do on the apartments.
  - n. The ECPC has no objections to the project as it's written in the petitioner statement. Thompson doesn't know what is going to happen with the proposal, but she thinks it is likely to go forward.
- 2. Thompson reports that there are also a couple of projects on the consent agenda.
  - a. First United Methodist Church wants to put in a labyrinth
    - i. They had an invasive plant on their list, but have since changed it out for a different plant.

- ii. They were asking for more impervious service than they were allowed, but they have been treating a much larger property as their own, and the area just outside their property lines is largely pervious.
- b. Tiffany Clark is still on the agenda, but it would not be surprising if the whole project goes away because they've had so many problems. Because the property is so small, they want zero lot lines. They have a restaurant and a full-fledged house and several apartments and have only proposed three parking spaces.
3. Between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street on the B-line trail, a developer wants to tear down the building and build a new one, but they're changing their proposal, and have postponed its presentation.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. Jung is still attending the Farmer's Market, and she has no idea how many signs she has passed out lately, but she always has really interesting interactions with people. She's all stocked up with L4L signs.
2. Recently a gentleman representing a company that is marketing some kind of natural fertilizer approached her at the Farmer's Market who wants to partner with L4L, and to be able to give the L4L signs away to people who use their fertilizer. Jung will be looking into this further.
3. Jung has been in the paper a lot lately, and may be consulted with for another mason bee article in the Herald Times.
4. WFHB has also approached Jung to a request an interview.
5. Jung made a connection with a green realtor in town, and there is potential for a partnership there as well.
6. The PSA for WFHB has been completed, but Jung has yet to hear it on the radio.
7. L4L now has 146 likes on Facebook
8. Jung heard about a potential pollution issue in the pine grove on Lake Monroe; Jung has heard that the Paynetown managers were using some kind of treatment (pesticides/fertilizers) to kill weeds on the shore, and that a lot of area that was once covered with high weeds along the shore is now clear. Jung found out that the Paynetown managers used Glyphosate. Jung is thinking about writing some kind of educational piece for homeowners regarding these treatments.
9. Thompson says, speaking of Mason Bees, one of the holes in her Mason Bee house is filled!

C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

1. Piepenburg announces that she heard from Pam of the IU Central Heating Plant regarding the energy use data, and that Pam expressed concern about data representation in the BEQI report, and said that she was unwilling to share the data from IU. Piepenburg is concerned about her reaction, both for the sake of the energy section, but other BEQI sections as well that may potentially be affected by a negative relationship with the IU Central Heating Plant.
2. Several commissioners suggested that we invite Pam to an Environmental Commission meeting to discuss her concerns about the BEQI report.
  - i. Piepenburg will invite Pam to the next meeting.

D. Tree Commission (10 min: Dedaimia)

1. Because Whitney is out, this update will be postponed until next time. The Vectren tree memo will be discussed later in the meeting.

E. Climate Action Plan (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Steven)

1. Steven is not in attendance, so this update will be postponed until next meeting.

VI. Old business (25 min)

A. Street tree removal compensation recommendation letter from EC (10 min: Dedaimia, Carrie)

1. Albright reads the memo she prepared:
2. "Over the past months, the Environmental Commission (EC) has engaged in numerous discussions about the city's policy regarding tree removal. As both the Environmental Commission and the Tree Commission are aware, the Vectren Corporation has established a proactive strategy to prevent tree-

root-related damage to their pipe systems. Although this strategy adheres to current city policy, it is one that neglects the negative effect tree loss has on our city's green status.

Now is our opportunity to develop a new policy that will not only clarify the process of city tree removal for developers and citizens alike, but create some clear guidelines regarding compensation for tree removal. The EC is suggesting a system of payment for trees removed. The fee would be determined according to one of several criteria, such as the following:

- Flat rate per tree (used in Munster, IN and San Francisco, CA)
- Price per caliper inch (in which price varies based on DBH range categories; used in communities in Georgia and Michigan)
- Appraised value (determined by a certified tree appraiser)

These contributions would be placed in the Bloomington Tree Fund, to be allocated as needed by the Urban Forester. This approach not only provides monetary resources for the planting of new trees, but allows the Urban Forester the discretion to select tree species that coincide with the established urban landscaping plan.

The EC also suggests that the fee vary based on the party instigating the removal. Large corporations and developers may have the financial capacity to removal large sets of trees to facilitate development, and we would advocate for a system of compensation which takes that ability into consideration; smaller or local developers who lack budgetary flexibility may be offered compensation options according to a different scale. In the creation of a new policy, we seek to define required replacement ratios with a certain value or parameter.

We invite the Tree Commission to consider the suggestions presented here and to engage in the development of a new policy for city tree removal. The aim of the EC is to draft an amendment to the current policy and present it to the City Council in the coming months. Coordinating the efforts of our two commissions would be a clear indication that there is interest and urgency in protecting our city trees.”

3. Myerson asks whether this memo should specifically target Vectren.
4. Thompson mentions that the ordinance will also be affected by overhead lines, fiber optics, etc.
5. Jung also asks who pays the fees for the tree appraiser.
  - i. Thompson responds that it would probably be paid by the developer.
6. Gorman says that we need to include the replacement ratio discussion.
7. Thompson says that this memo and this issue will be in the hands of the Parks Department, as title 12 is their ordinance. If the Parks Department agrees with our arguments, they will take it to the City Council to have their ordinance changed. If the Environmental Commission wants to make a recommendation to them that's fine, but we should do it with the Tree Commission. Parks and Recreation has an obligation to listen to the Tree Commission as it is their commission. If Parks says yes to our ordinance recommendation, they will take it to the City Council.
8. Albright asks whether we should change the language about the City Council.
  - i. Thompson says yes, we should change the language.
9. Sharrow comments that we identify different ratios for different groups of people, and asks whether we can have different ratios depending on the number of trees being cut.
10. Gorman is uncomfortable with a means-based replacement strategy, and thinks that it would be a tricky political sell.
11. Thompson says that some people argue that it should be done the other way around, giving parties like the Vectren's and developers a price break.
12. Jung asks what the overall objective of the memo is, and if that can't be made more evident in the memo.
13. Julian says that if Vectren has their way, we will have a serious impact on the tree canopy.

14. Thompson says that a couple came in today who have City trees and shrubs along the road in front of their home. A Vectren representative came to their door and asked them to sign a form, giving them permission to cut down the trees. Thompson had a discussion with Lee Huss late this afternoon about this issue. Lee had just had a meeting the Vectren about Smith road, and Lee suggested that the tree removal company contact all the property owners for permission before they apply for a permit from the city. If they did not get the homeowners permission, the city doesn't have to say yes. The permission forms will definitely affect the city's decision
15. Sharrow asks whether theoretically the property owners could sign the form and the city could still say no to Vectren.
16. Thompson says yes, theoretically the city could still say no. The signature of the property owner doesn't actually give Vectren permission.
17. Jung asks whether some trees have already been cut.
18. Thompson says they cut the tops of the trees down on West Second Street in Green County.
19. Litwin says that developers like Vectren generally apply for easements.
20. Thompson says that they usually do, but not always, and that there are some places where they do not.
21. Julian asks whether it is possible for them to consider planting trees with shallow roots, and asks how deep the pipes are buried.
22. Litwin says that they bury them at least 5 feet deep now, but that they used to bury them quite shallow. Thompson says it would be unlikely to find any trees with roots shallow enough.
23. Albright will send out the memo for feedback and then Whitney can take it to the Tree Commission if she is feeling better, otherwise the commission will find other means to get it to them.

B. Weeds & Poison Ivy brochure (15 min: Diane)

1. Jung will add some illustrations to the fact sheet, and has already removed the line about the goat.
2. Jung moves that we vote, Gorman seconds.
  - i. The measure passes unanimously.

VII. Commissioner announcements (15 min)

- A. Gorman asks: how does a pirate clean his ship? Answer: Have a "yarrrrrd" sale. (It is national Talk-Like-a-Pirate Day)
- B. Lindberg mentioned that she is working on a potential collaboration with an environmental group in Italy. The group is interested as are those here in the US. All are in the process of deciding "what" and "how". She also received a scholarship to attend the annual Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management conference and present on various city water-related projects.
- C. Litwin attended the last Imagine Bloomington Meeting, which was the last goal topics meeting for the Master Plan:
  - a. The meeting covered transportation, economic and sustainable development, and government services.
  - b. For government services, there is a government facilities plan report on the city website.
  - c. City Parks has some major improvements on the drawing board, such as completely building swimming pools, the switchyard plan, and some other projects.
  - d. The Jordan Creek Storm Sewer still has a section to be completed, right in the middle.
  - e. There was a long discussion on solid waste management regarding recycling, and lots of discussion on our solid waste because it is so expensive.
  - f. Litwin also mentions that there was a Public meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but that he did not attend.
    - i. Myerson did attend the meeting, and reports that there was a sizeable group in attendance that was unhappy with the goals that were presented, and many felt there were many important topics left off of the goals
    - ii. Litwin says that the results of this meeting will eventually be on the Imagine Bloomington website, as are the summaries of all the meetings. Litwin says that he supposes they will take the public comment from the public meeting and edit the goals accordingly.
- D. Jung thanks Piepenburg for coming by to help out at the Farmers Market.
- E. Julian attended the MPO meeting.
  - a. The major thing Julian would report from that meeting was that the representative from INDOT was confronted by a number of people about the pollution/erosion that their project is causing; it is polluting the

nearby streams. The representative said that everything being done is under the agreement. Julian asked the representative whether they have permission to pollute. Julian said that he never really got any kind of satisfactory response from the INDOT representative. In the coming meeting, Julian will take more notes so he will have more to report.

- F. Thompson recalls the 319 Grant from Soil and Water Conservation District for Bean Blossom Bottom. She announces that the Soil and Water Conservation District is applying for another grant, which would pay for a plan for part of the Lake Monroe Watershed and the Salt Creek; they want to hire someone to write the plan, and were asking various entities for letters of support, so Thompson wrote a letter and had it signed by Tom Micuda, which gives favor from the Planning Department and the Environmental Commission, and if the Soil and Water Conservation District gets a plan, the Environmental Commission will provide an in-kind contribution towards this plan.
- a. Jung asks whether SWEET is involved.
  - b. Thompson says that SWEET is going to be the technical committee. SWEET is how Thompson heard about this project. The Planning Department is the department planning the bioswales and so on, and the Planning Department's new transportation engineer will be designing Complete Streets and so on, so the Environmental Commission might have a lot of in kind matching to do.
  - c. Thompson reads the letter of support aloud:
    - i. Dear Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District,

The City of Bloomington Planning Department supports the proposed 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program Grant. The comprehensive plan for Watershed Hydraulic Unit Codes 0512020807 (Lake Monroe-Salt Creek, 57,351 acres) and 0512020808 (Salt Creek, 130,253 acres) includes opportunities for both urban and agricultural water conservation and restoration practices. The planning area will include the City of Bloomington, Lake Monroe, and the rural areas surrounding the City. Such a wide range of needs and interests will facilitate partnerships among varying stakeholders to improve the water quality of the County's primary source of drinking water and recreation. When this grant expires and the management plan is complete, it will influence future best management practice (BMP) efforts for water runoff and will guide water conservation and quality education outreach.

More specifically, the Planning Department and the City's Environmental Commission will support the grant effort predominantly through in-kind labor matches. Staff efforts would focus on the following areas:

1. Environmental quality and quantity BMPs for stormwater drainage facilities,
2. Low impact design for street infrastructure,
3. Water conservation, cleanliness, and health education initiatives led by the Environmental Commission, and
4. Steering Committee assistance.

Please except this letter of support for the management plan to enhance two important watersheds in Indiana.

- d. The Salt Creek Watershed encompasses much of the southern part of the city.

## VIII. Adjournment

(Time Mark: 9:37 p.m.)

- A. Julian moves to adjourn. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, October 17, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Chaim Julian, Louise Sharrow, Dedaimia Whitney, Mike Litwin, Linda Thompson (Staff), Carissa Moncavage (Vice Chair), Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

**Absent:**

Sean Gorman, Diane Jung, Kristie Lindberg, Deborah Myerson

- I. Introductions (5 min) (Time Mark: 7:02 pm)
- II. Announcements (10 min)
- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
    - 1. Julian will be unable to attend.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
    - 1. Moncavage will attend.
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: November 13<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
    - 1. Albright volunteers to go but will discuss this with Jung.
  - F. Next ERAC meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, Bryan Park in the North Shelter
    - 1. Litwin will attend.
  - G. Next MPO meeting: October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm, McCloskey Room
    - 1. Julian may be unable to attend.
- III. Approval of Minutes (5 min)
- A. Litwin requests that “Baptist” church be replaced with “Methodist” church in the September minutes. Julian points out a typo that OMB was listed as OB. Pending these revisions, Julian moves to approve the minutes. Moncavage and Whitney abstain.
  - B. Whitney points out that abstentions count as nay votes.
    - 1. Albright says that voting requires a majority.
    - 2. Whitney decides not to abstain and instead changes her vote to yes; the motion passes.
- IV. Public comment
- V. Committee reports & discussions (40 min)
- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Mike, Linda)
    - 1. Song Kim
      - a. This proposal is for the property located on the corner of Washington and East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street .

- b. The property is currently a dry cleaners, but in the past it has also been a gas station and an office building. Thompson has already requested information regarding cleanup at the site, but that report has not yet been given.
- c. The proposal includes a drive-in entry off Washington Street and another “mouse hole” entrance on to 3<sup>rd</sup>. The proposal includes two buildings; the larger of the two will be a convenience store and the smaller, a bakery. The bakery will have an office and storage space that will extend over the driveway. The second floor of the larger building will have two two-bedroom apartments.
- d. The proposal includes seven parking spaces, and given this amount of parking the developers are required to do some landscaping.
- e. The ECPC is primarily concerned with any possible clean up that might be necessary, and whether there has ever been a Phase 1 evaluation to determine if a cleanup is necessary.
  - a. The dry cleaner has been in business for a long time, which might mean that there is a high chance of contamination.
- f. The building will have modern-looking architectural features, yet fit with the Fleanor building next door.
- g. The new transit station will be almost next door.

B. L4L Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste)

1. Jung and Lindberg are not present, so updates for the L4L committee will be postponed.

C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne)

1. Piepenburg has invited Peggy from the IU CHP to the EC meeting, and is still waiting to hear back from her regarding availability for the meeting.

D. Tree Commission (10 min: Dedaimia)

1. Whitney attended the previous meeting. The meeting consisted largely of an update of what Lee Huss has been up to—Lee passed around a three-and-a-half page, single-spaced list of all the trees that have recently been cut down, and the list included a number of Maples and Ash trees.
2. Whitney asked about the Vectren issue. Vectren is currently cleaning out easements and is going to talk to homeowners now about taking out further trees. Lee said that he told Vectren that he will not advocate on their behalf, and further that he will work with Vectren on a right tree, right place philosophy.
3. Lee indicated that Vectren may not have to pay to replace these trees. Whitney believes that Lee has strong feelings about negotiating for the value of trees, and that he wants to be able to negotiate for their value freely. Whitney wants our memo to reflect our sensitivity to Lee’s autonomy.
  - i. Thompson does not understand why Vectren would not be subject to pay for the trees they are removing. Thompson thought that this payment was mandatory, while Whitney thought that the payment was only informal and negotiated with the Tree Commission in the form of donations to the tree fund.
  - ii. The existing tree replacement language is in Title 10. Thompson recalls that the tree ordinance indicates that anyone who takes down a tree on city property has to replace it at a 1.2:1 ratio.
4. Albright agrees that it would be imprudent to overstep our bounds into Lee’s jurisdiction, but that the EC should support the city on this issue.
5. Thompson received an email from Duke which says they are going to update infrastructure in an area that includes the Polly Grimshaw Trail, and that they will be cutting down trees along that path.
  - i. Moncavage says that the vegetation along the path are mostly invasive.
6. Litwin says that we should express concern that Vectren is removing significant number of trees and something should be done, but that the EC should not proscribe the manner in which the issue to handled.
7. Sharrow says that if a policy exists, the most important concern is tracking payment and tree removal.
  - i. Thompson adds that Lee might not know when a donation is made; for instance, when you sign up for a city class you can check a box that says you would like to donate \$3 to the tree fund.
  - ii. Sharrow will ask Burnie Fisher if he has any perspective on the issue.
8. Litwin wonders if we have a clear interpretation of the ordinance.

9. Thompson says no, not yet, but that we can further review the ordinance before the next meeting.

E. Climate Action Plan (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Steven, Jayne)

1. Piepenburg is reviewing the climate actions in the spreadsheet prepared by Jess Vogt with Thompson to try and identify responsible parties, as well as researching the efforts of other cities to see if there are other climate action items that Bloomington's list is missing.
2. After all of the climate actions have been reviewed with Thompson, Piepenburg will make appointments with individuals in all city departments to ask them questions about the status of their climate action efforts, barriers to taking action, and related questions.
3. Whitney and Albright add some additional questions for Piepenburg to ask, including inquiring about needed resources and projected timelines.

VI. Old business (15 min)

A. Street tree removal compensation recommendation letter from EC (10 min: Dedaimia, Carrie)

1. Albright asks whether there are any comments on the memo which has been sent around.
2. Thompson indicates that she has a few more comments, and Whitney expresses a desire to better understand the ordinance and reconvene with the EC about the issue next month.
  - i. Albright does not want to bring Lee in to the EC meeting and bombard him with all of our thoughts, but feels that it might be important to discuss the matter with Lee because his interpretation might be different.
  - ii. Litwin asked for clarification of the nuts and bolts of the ordinance revision we are proposing, how trees are to be replaced and how the value is to be determined.
    - a. Thompson says that Lee was in favor of hiring a tree appraiser.
    - b. Litwin asks what would happen if the tree has no value.
      1. Thompson says that the developer has to hire an appraiser, and that the appraiser would handle these issues. She would assume that is the reason why Lee recommended a tree appraiser.
    - c. Whitney adds that we don't want to take away the power for Lee to give the approval or disapproval of whether trees can be removed, but that we only want to give the ordinance some teeth.
    - d. Litwin asks whether there are volunteer trees on city property.
      1. Whitney says that she doesn't know the answer, but she has heard that the tree crew is busy all the time taking care of hazard trees.
      2. Thompson adds that if someone has planted a lot things in their tree plots, they would probably be left alone; there are a lot of places around town where it has happened and those who do so are generally left alone.
  - iii. Whitney summarizes by saying that the EC is going to get all of the ordinances relevant to the issue, determine what is mandatory and what is not and determine what to do from there. Whitney adds that Carrie Bridges, Laura Cornell and others on the tree commission are interested in the issue, and that Carrie in particular is well aware that other cities have a formula they use to determine replacement ratios, and there is support for this idea on the Tree Commission.

B. Follow-up on 319 grant for Soil & Water Conservation Districts (5 min: Thompson)

1. Thompson sent the letter and made an editorial change after that, which was just a silly mistake that Whitney noticed. Thompson says that there is nothing really to update, and that the grant application has been submitted but there is no word yet as to whether it has been accepted.
2. Litwin asks Thompson to clarify what "Steering Committee assistance" refers to in the letter.
  - i. Thompson says that the proposal includes the establishment of a Steering Committee, which will be the Stormwater Environmental Education Team (SWEET).
3. Litwin asks what the EC's share of the work will be.
  - i. Thompson says that the EC's share will likely be almost nothing; Part 1 of the grant involves hiring someone to write a plan, and Part 2 of the grant is implementation the plan; probably all that

the EC will have to do is provide some in-kind work donations, which amounts basically to the time people spend talking about L4L, green infrastructure going on in this area, and any other education that the EC might do about clean water. It doesn't seem that the EC will be asked to do anything aside from offering our in-kind contribution.

## VII. New Business

### A. Meeting RSVPs (5 min: Carrie)

1. Albright says that as we enter the holiday season, it is really important to correspond regarding whether we're going to be in town for a meeting.
2. Thompson adds that the ordinance that formed the EC says that if a commissioner misses a meeting three times that they are removed from the commissions. Thompson keeps a running attendance list, but excuses individuals who have valid excuses for their absence.

### B. MLK Day

1. Thompson realized that the EC needs to start thinking about the MLK Day project once again. Lindberg indicated to Thompson that she is not up to taking on the project this year.
2. Moncavage wonders whether the EC needs to decide whether to do the project or simply just what to do?
3. Whitney asks for more information about the MLK Day grant.
4. Thompson explains that the city gives grant money for programs, and the EC can't receive a grant for a program because we are a city council, but that in the past the EC has partnered with another organization such as a school or the Center for Sustainable Living.
  - i. Albright says that if nothing else, this event engages families and communities to engage in 40 days of peace, and participants have one month to complete their projects. The MLK Day is the kickoff for things happening in the schools, and the grant money is given to groups to do something for the community.
  - ii. Thompson adds that they don't just want people to go and clean up trash for one day, but an activity that will continue on. Projects must reflect the values of Dr. King, be completed in a certain time frame, and demonstrate a service or community focus.
  - iii. Albright relates that the Bike-Ped Commission gave away bike bells. Last year the EC made mandalas, but there was a very low turnout.
  - iv. Litwin recalls that one year the EC painted the activity room at the Banneker Center using environmentally-friendly paint.
  - v. Thompson adds that one year the EC made recycling bins.
5. Albright says that it often ends up a last-minute project, where the EC has to figure out what they're going to do, put it together and execute it in a short time. Albright loves it, but thinks that the EC has a lot of activities that they already undertake, and that this activity will require a pretty huge time contribution along with the other activities that the commission is already doing. She would really hate to think that 2/3 of the way through the process it becomes a negative experience for whoever is doing it.
6. Louise wonders if Chad Roeder would like to be involved.
7. Thompson says that we have two really major priorities coming this year (Imagine Bloomington and the Climate Protection Plan) and that she doesn't want to spread us out too thin to work on this project because these other priorities are very important.
8. Whitney says that she feels the connection of MLK Day to the EC is somewhat contrived, and that MLK would tune in on disparity and economic and class inequalities when it comes to poor air and water quality, but her interests are more in the Climate Action Plan. Whitney would like to see us accomplish something for the city, for instance, institute a ban on Plastic Bags. Whitney asks whether we might brainstorm groups who might be a better fit for the MLK Day events.
9. Litwin adds that Lindberg previously spearheaded the project, but if no one in the commission wants to take on the burden, the EC does not have to participate this year.

Albright says that the EC obviously wants to be involved in the community, but the MLK Day event is not the sole opportunity for the EC to do so, and that if in the future the EC wants to participate in MLK Day again, the door isn't officially closed. Albright likes that the EC does Eco-Heroes and the Farmer's Market, but feels the

EC might be spread too thin this year with Imagine Bloomington and the Climate Action Plan to pursue MLK Day in addition.

### C. Priority Projects for Next Year

1. Thompson indicates that there is a long list of potential projects that she will send around for the commissioners to look over. Piepenburg's projects are high priorities right now. The Farmer's Market and the Garden Show in spring provide high visibility.
2. Albright asks that commissioners look over the list and think seriously about what they individually can commit to do in the coming year.
3. Thompson adds that before the next meeting she can add items to the list of potential projects, so commissioners should feel free to send their ideas along for consideration.
4. Sharrow asks whether there is a law in the city prohibiting invasive species.
  - i. Thompson explains that it is a violation of Title VI to have invasive species, but there is no sanction against the selling of invasive species.

## VIII. Commissioner announcements (15 min)

### A. Sharrow attended the last BCOS meeting, and has two items to report from that meeting

1. The developers of a co-housing development presented at the sustainability commission. The development has a privately-owned central house that is designed in common by all people who live in the house. The developers asked BCOS to support them in their zoning issues.
  - i. Thompson explains that Dave Rollo has been a champion of this project, and that those involved want to change the zoning from residential to PUD so they can do some things that would otherwise be outside the regulation of residential areas. The biggest problem is that the piece of property on Maxwell Street adjoining the YMCA does not have a thru-street and emergency services are concerned about having adequate access.
  - ii. Sharrow explains that the developers said they could afford to put in a one-lane road for bikes that emergency services could drive on, and there has been a lot of discussion about this issue; the city said they want a street with sidewalks and the developers said they cannot afford all of the infrastructure.
  - iii. Sharrow wonders if it is within the purview of the EC to support this project.
  - iv. Thompson says that when the PUD comes forward the EC will write a memo.
2. Sharrow also reports that the BCOS is working on the Star Community Rating system (ICLEI), and wonders if any of the materials in the BEQI might feed into that report. Different members of BCOS are championing different parts of the report.
3. There was also much discussion at the BCOS meeting about the new "sharrows" and "bike boxes."

### B. Julian attended the MPO Advisory Committee meeting but that the meeting generally did not cover topics which concern the EC. Julian reports there was some controversy about the safety and sustainability of bridges in town, as a certain amount of money was budgeted for inspection of bridges and also for some bureaucratic work involving the completion of paperwork and the budget contained twice the sum for the paperwork as the bridge inspection. The person who gave the report about the project did not have an explanation for this differential, and even though it seemed somewhat strange, the MPO Committee passed the budget anyways.

1. Also, after attending one more meeting Julian will become a voting member.
2. Julian got a job! Congratulations!

### C. Litwin announces that the Master Plan Steering Committee is dormant right now, and that he missed the ERAC meeting but that he does have the minutes from that meeting.

1. The Lake Griffy sediment removal has been completed and the final total was \$123,000 and 6,500 yd<sup>3</sup> were dredged from the lake bed to open up the channel. Visually it appears that they have cleaned out a ditch in the bottom of the lake.
  - i. Three-quarters of the project was paid for through a DNR grant.

- ii. The removed material is being stored at the Winston Commons site and will be used for another project.
  - iii. Whitney says she has heard that they weren't going to pump water in to the lake and simply let it fill in natural.
    - 1. Litwin concurs, and says this is the normal practice.
2. A new trail section at Cascades Park has been approved for a 6/10 mile trail between the Golf Course and Kinser Pike. It will cost \$456,000, and 80% of this total will be covered by the government.
- i. Litwin explains that 90 trees of four inches or more of diameter will be removed and that Fox has not agreed to provide the city with the salvage wood.

D. Whitney announces that she was elected to the board of Bloomingfoods and that she ran on an environmental platform.

E. Albright says in summary of the meeting that she will send around the tree report, and asks Thompson to send around the list of potential projects for next year for the commissioners to review.

## IX. Adjournment

(Time Mark: 9:01 p.m.)

A. Albright moves to adjourn. Julian seconds. The motion passes unanimously.



**City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

Thursday, November 21, 2013, 7:00 pm  
City Hall – McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

**Attending:**

Carrie Albright (Chair), Carissa Moncavage (Vice Chair), Chaim Julian, Louise Sharrow, Dedaimia Whitney, Deborah Myerson, Mike Litwin, Andrew Carty, Norman Crampton, Sean Gorman, Linda Thompson (Staff), Jayne Piepenburg (SPEA Fellow)

**Absent:**

Diane Jung, Kristie Lindberg, Steven Flowers (intern)

1. Introductions (5 min) (Time Mark: 7:04 pm)
  - A. Welcome new commissioner Andrew Carty.
    - a. Carty is a master's student at SPEA and hopes to go on to PhD after and become a professor. Prior to starting his master's program, he worked at an investment banking firm.
  - B. Welcome new commissioner Norman Crampton.
    - a. Crampton was the first director of the Institute of Recycling. Crampton previously worked in the environmental and solid waste field in Chicago at the American Public Works Association. He has published books titled "Complete Trash," and "Green House." Crampton also wrote a book for industry professionals titled "Reducing Waste at the Source." Crampton worked as a newspaper reporter in Chicago, and he has been engaged in writing and journalism throughout his career.
2. Announcements (10 min) (Time Mark: 7:06 pm)
  - A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
  - B. Next Planning Committee meetings: November 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
    - a. The date of this meeting will change as a result of the Thanksgiving holiday.
  - C. Next Tree Commission meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, Rose Hill
    - a. Whitney will attend this meeting
  - D. Next BCOS meeting: December 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, McCloskey Room
    - a. Moncavage will attend this meeting.
  - E. Next Co. Environ. Quality & Sus. Com. meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm, Rm. 100 Showers North
    - a. Sharrow will attend this meeting.
  - F. Next ERAC meeting: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm, Parks Dept.
  - G. Next MPO Citizens Advisory Committee: January, 6:30 pm, McCloskey Room
3. Approval of minutes (5 min) (Time Mark: 7:08 pm)\
  - A. Julian moves to approve the minutes. Sharrow seconds.
    - a. Myerson, Crampton, and Carty abstain.
    - b. The motion passes 7:3.

4. Public comment (5 min) (Time Mark: 7:09 pm)
- A. Rick Alexander from the Engineering Department invites anyone who has issues about erosion control to email him.
5. Guest speaker Kerwin Olson energy in Indiana (20 min) (Time Mark: 7:10 pm)
- A. The CAC has been advocating for a public benefit charge for state efficiency programs for well over two decades without any luck. However, Indiana does have a statewide efficiency program going on now.
- B. Olson presents a brief background on the energy efficiency mandate in Indiana.
- a. Prior to the Energize Indiana program, Indiana had a patchwork of policies on the gas and electric side. In 2004, the CAC came to a settlement agreement with Vectren, asking that the Commission demand side management (DSM) program be run by an independent program administrator. From that request came an order in 2004 from the Commission to begin an investigation as to whether DSM was good public policy and if employing an independent moderator policy made sense.
  - b. Both Vermont and Wisconsin had passed a 3<sup>rd</sup> party efficiency program at that time, so the Commission was looking through the lens of what had happened in these states. So, there was an investigation of DSM in Indiana, and in 2006 the Commission met again and hired Susan Stratton of Energy Center of Wisconsin to file recommendations. Stratton filed a Phase 1 report in early 2007 about what she had discovered was going on in the state. She discovered that Indiana was not quite ready for a state wide energy efficiency program, and between 2007 and 2009 there were 15-20 technical conferences covering various different topics, such as ways to administer different programs and ways to do cost recovery, among other program implementation topics. A Phase 2 report from Stratton came out in May 2009 and recommended that the State move forward in implementing a state-wide efficiency program, either through a public benefit charge, through utility-specific programs, or through a government agency. She recommended nine different programs the State should offer all rate payers
    - i. Residential lighting, residential appliance, school education, building code compliance, commercial and industrial programs with prescriptive rebates for pumps/motor/rebates, home energy assessments/audits
  - c. In December 2009, Indiana issued an order basically establishing a state policy that energy efficiency is a good policy, and ordered the utilities to establish five core programs:
    - i. Energy efficiency in schools
    - ii. Commercial and industrial rebates
    - iii. Weatherization, income inequality
    - iv. Residential home energy assessments
    - v. Residential lighting
  - d. The five programs weren't enough to meet established energy efficiency targets, and utilities had to create "Core +" programs to run to meet the target/mandate.
  - e. CAC created a DSM Committee and the five programs that became "Energizing Indiana". What the Commission did not do was create a public benefit charge and create an independent party to administer the program.
    - i. If utility companies manage DSM programs, we end up with inefficient programs.
- C. DSM Coordination Committee (DSMCC), overseer of Energizing Indiana, includes the five major energy producers in Indiana, major Indiana industrial customers, and the CAC, and these are the nine groups that oversee the 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizer which is Energizing Indiana. All other states have the utility running the program themselves, or they have the public benefit charge with independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator which reports directly to the commission.
- a. The alleged 3<sup>rd</sup> party administrator is reporting to DSMCC, and then to the CAC, and then the CAC files a report to the commission. There are six votes for utilities, and 3 votes for the others on the Commission.
  - b. The reports include evaluation, measurement and verification, and cost recovery, but the DSMCC sanitizes evaluation reports.

- D. That said there is a lot going on: we now have a second motion with the DSMCC absent the CAC to end the mandate. There is also legislation coming up in the State Houses; first, a big bill in Ohio to end energy efficiency in Ohio, and a bill on the horizon in Indiana in January which would kill the efficiency mandate, effectively ending the DSM program. Because there are so many different cases and filings, the CAC is not sure what's going on and what their strategy should be to address these actions. Indiana has strong efficiency goals (stronger than OH, MI and IL), and the intent of the mandate was right and good, and so the CAC is not sure exactly where we are and what precisely the CAC should do, whether they should support public benefit charge model or not. The CAC discussed this with the Pence administration and found they were not in favor.
- a. Indiana has good policy, and while the mechanisms aren't perfect, and the model isn't perfect, and the CAC doesn't like all of it, it's better than what we had before. The CAC is facing an ally fight to protect energy efficiency (and net metering as well) in the State of Indiana.
  - b. So, what Indiana has is certainly not the public benefit charge, it's but it's better than what we had before, and we know the utilities are coming after energy efficiency in the statehouse.
- E. Thompson asks why those in the Statehouse are going after net metering.
- a. Olson says that it is because the sheer economics of solar energy is a threat to the utility business model. Recently a report by GE came out about the need for utilities to create a new model around renewables, and they're going after net metering because in certain areas, 50-60% of energy is coming from net metering, and it's enabling a huge solar build-out, which is a threat to the utility monopoly model. Solar is become more efficient and cost effective, and we're very close having solar powers readily available.
    - i. Net metering allows any rate payer to install a renewable energy system on their property and interconnect to the grid, and it's called net metering because there's time your meter will spin backward; it's not a cash transaction but you get a monthly credit on your bill.
    - ii. Now you get credited at a retail rate for the energy you produce, and the utilities want to change the compensation rate to the wholesale price. The wholesale rate is only 2.5-3.5 cents, so they basically destroy the economics of the system. The CAC knows that's what they're doing. The argument utilities are making is that net metering is regressive and that the poor are subsidizing solar panels for the rich.
    - iii. Interestingly, in Arizona a coalition of environmentalists and tea-party-ists has formed because both groups hate monopolies. Utilities are arguing in Arizona that because people using net-metering aren't contributing to the cost of grid maintenance, those who net-meter should pay a flat rate (monthly?).
      1. The Arizona Commission came down and said that the highest net-metering charge they could do was \$5/month, which the CAC sees as a positive. The utilities would have a much higher charge.
    - iv. Olson says that is kind of a joke that they're looking at net-metering in IN, because most states going after it have 2-3% energy from net metering. Indiana has less than 150 customers who are net-metering. Duke Energy told the CAC that they are already conducting a study of the impact of non-net-metering-participants on poverty. The only issue is that net metering threatens the whole concept of the natural monopoly.
      1. Still, some utility companies embrace renewable energies.
    - v. Indiana gets 90% of its energy from coal, or about 89.7%. The price of natural gas effects how much coal we burn, but that's about it.
- F. Litwin asks how rural electric cooperatives stack up against other utilities.
- a. Olson says that rural electric cooperatives are even worse than investor owned utilities. They are very restrictive on net-metering policy, and RMCs can do what they want because they're not regulated bodies. When the mandate for efficiency came out, all remaining RMCs withdrew. RMCs are worse, but the reality is that RMC represent only about 5% of energy production in Indiana, but they're in prime territory for wind and biogas generation. RMCs are not any help at all, but we don't mess with them because none of them has jurisdictional authority.
- G. Whitney asks when the public will know about the pending legislation, and when can the Environmental Commission take a stand about the legislation that's going to be presented.

- a. Olson says that as soon as we know something about it, they try to get information out as quickly as possible.
- H. Julian asks whether this will come up in the House or Senate first?
  - a. Olson says that most utility efforts have started in the Senate, as the Indiana house is pretty dysfunctional.
  - b. Olson adds that the only rule is that congress has to have the language out 24 hours before a committee hearing.
  - c. Olson also points out that the Chair of the IN Senate Utility Committee, James Merritt, has significant financial ties to the Indiana State Railroad Association, whose major business is shipping coal. Merritt continues to get approval from the Senate Annex Committee, who say that there's no conflict there.
- I. Has the CAC considered a strategy of appealing to tea party sensibilities in IN?
  - a. The CAC has talked with the Hoosier chapter of Sierra Club, but the IN tea party has no interest in talking to CAC or to environmental groups.
- J. The CAC will do their best to get information out as soon as possible.
- K. Lindsey Helmbock ([lhelmbock@citact.org](mailto:lhelmbock@citact.org)) also attended the meeting, and she is involved with DSM stuff at the CAC.
- L. Myerson asks whether we can subscribe to the CAC's email list.
  - a. Olson says that anyone can subscribe by visiting the CAC's website.
- M. Whitney says that she thinks we should have access to their email list, and when the time comes, the Environmental Commission should draft a letter opposing the repeal of net-metering.
  - a. Julian adds that we should also oppose the legislation to weaken or kill the mandate,
  - b. Myerson says that we can at least write a letter, or letter to the editor, and do something to get the word out more broadly. Perhaps this is something the Environmental Commission can do before the bill comes out.
    - i. Whitney agrees some sort of guest column would be excellent. She would also like to see the Environmental Commission send a letter to the Chairman of the Senate Utility Community
  - c. Julian suggests that perhaps the Environmental Commission can speak about this at the City Council, and since the City Council meetings are broadcast on CATS, this is another way to get the word out about the pending action.
  - d. Carty asks what the time frame for drafting such a letter would be.
    - i. Whitney adds that the Environmental Commission should draft the letter very soon.
  - e. Litwin asks Thompson whether the Environmental Commission needs clearance to send a letter to the State.
    - i. Thompson doesn't think we need permission, but the Environmental Commission's letter would have to be edited as it would going out being labeled as "City of Bloomington." This "editing" generally entails making the Mayor or Assistant Mayor are aware of what we're saying, but the Mayor or Assistant mayor is unlikely to tell the Commission what they can or cannot do or say.
  - f. Whitney asks whether Olson or Helmboch might supply some language for the letter.
  - g. Julian advises that perhaps the Commission should talk to our own senator, as he may be able to find out when this bill is going to be introduced, and also with Matt Pierce on the House side.
  - h. Whitney suggests that the Commission might frame the letter in terms of supporting an idea (supporting net metering or the energy efficiency mandate) rather than opposing it's repeal, and saying that the Environmental Commission wants to encourage the development of alternative energy sources. The Letter might say that the Environmental Commission doesn't want to see any changes that would discourage people from investing in these forms of generation, and with the energy efficiency program, the Commission might say that we think this work is valuable and should be protected.
  - i. Myerson wonders what data are available about the impact of the program, and whether the CAC might have that data.

- j. Moncavage adds that we have some idea of what to put in the letter, and that we can fine-tune the letter as we go as the topics are changing every day. Moncavage and Albright will get something in the works and pass it around.
  - i. Albright says that there might be statistics and other information we want to include on the CAC website .
- k. Whitney points out that theoretically, what counts is the signature of the Environmental Commission in support of the issue.
- l. Sharrow adds that if the repeal is going to disproportionately affect Monroe County, the Environmental Commission can tailor the letter to our area.

6. Committee reports & discussions (45 min)

(Time Mark: 8:00 pm)

A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner (15 min: Chaim, Mike, Dedaimia, Linda)

- a. Thompson introduces the Planning Committee for the benefit of the new members. The Planning Committee meets with Thompson a couple of times a month. Thompson describes the development petition, and the Committee talks about development proposal and recommendations that the Environmental Commission would like to include in a memo to the Planning Commission. So, when the Planning Commission is reviewing the petition they have our comments, and they can use them for leverage or they can ignore us. What is interesting is that developers have started taking the Environmental Commission recommendations that aren't required and doing them anyway, so writing the memo is important.

b. Elmore Orrego

- i. The project will be located between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> street along the B-Line trail. The building that is currently on the lot now will be razed and another building built. The proposed building will be four floors. The bottom floor will contain a parking garage and commercial space, floors two and three will have apartments, and floor four will have three penthouses.
- ii. The location is downtown, so there is very little landscaping required.
- iii. The Commission will offer our typical green building recommendations.
- iv. The developer's landscape plan was a little short on street trees, and the Committee will recommend for the developers to reuse anything from the razed building (the current structure is clad in nice limestone).
  - 1. There is a little parking lot made out of brick, and someone that deals with historic preservation thought that the bricks might be original, and so the bricks might be reused for something. The developers have been discussing this for a while but they keep tweaking their architecture.
- v. Myerson asks who the target market is for the apartments and whether they're going to be market rate. Thompson says that the developer didn't say but it looks like higher-end housing.
- vi. About the three penthouses, the largest one is just under 5000 square feet, and the others are each about 3000 square feet. All three of them have large decks.
- vii. The building façade will include marble and limestone, and the developer won't be marketing to the typical student.

c. 116 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

- i. This proposal includes commercial on the first floor and then apartments. The building will be located just up the street from the bus transfer, in the current Spring drycleaners location.
- ii. Before it was a drycleaners the plot was a gas station. The Committee wonders if the land has been properly cleaned up, and will ask to see the developers Phase 1 assessment.
- iii. On the first floor the developers propose a convenience store and bakery; the second floor will have an office and two two-bedroom apartments.
- iv. The proposal only contains seven parking spaces.

- i. This proposal is for a tiny lot, and the developers want to put more on the lot than it can handle to make the money work, and they won't make any money off parking spaces.
  - v. The developers have a lot of missing pieces in their plan. The proposal is for a very modern looking building, and the Planning Commission didn't like the modern building style.
- d. Elliot Lewis Development
  - i. This proposal is for a property on the corner of College and 17<sup>th</sup>. Right now the plot is just an empty parking lot; Delilah's used to be at this location. The developer talked about this project a long time ago but wound up dropping it, and now it's back.
  - ii. The proposal contains 44 units and 61 beds in a four-story building. About half of the first floor would be commercial, and the developer is envisioning that there will be a restaurant. The back half of the first floor will be apartments, so they will need to request a variance. The other stories are all apartments. You will enter from College Avenue.
  - iii. Julian asks the developers reason is for the variance request.
    - i. Thompson says that in order for the Planning Commission to deny the developer's variance request they would have to show that their request will adversely impact the health or wellbeing of the city.
  - iv. Julian asks then what is to stop all developers from violating City ordinance's.
    - i. Thompson says that this is a good question, and that the City is dealing with this issue in regards to drive-through banks now that the City has set a precedent. There might be an argument that this policy is detrimental to the community, and that we have this item in our code for a reason.
- e. 10<sup>th</sup> and College
  - i. This is a proposal for a lot with a little, non-descript building with a parking lot in front. There is a little gift shop there currently, and the back half of the building had been the offices for Fox Construction but they've already moved away.
  - ii. This proposal is also for a four-story building. The first story will be a parking garage; it will be at ground level on the back but it will be the basement if you're on College because of the slope of the property. The main entrance will be on College. There will be first floor commercial in the front, and he developer will be wanting on a variance for not being commercial the whole way on the first floor. The rest will be apartments.
  - iii. The Planning Committee will talk about green building in the memo.
  - iv. This lot also used to be a filling station, and so the Planning Committee will ask about whether there has been a cleanup or environmental evaluation of the site conducted.
  - v. The Planning Committee will also request recycling space.
- f. Moores Pike Medical Office
  - i. This proposal is on Moores Pike right behind the theater. The building will be up front, parking will be along the side, and the back part of the property is all wooded.
  - ii. The City is going to make the developers keep the wooded portion in some fashion, and the area will be put into a conservancy easement to some extent, but the City still has to decide what the terms will be of this agreement.
  - iii. This is the site where a few years ago the developers illegally girdled some big trees and those are dead and gone. The City did issued a fine, but that's all that happened. We don't know if it should be left as a woods or if we should make them clean it all up and replant natives, maintain the space in a parkland style or let the area go.
  - iv. Moncavage asks what would stop the City from requiring the developers to get the invasive species out.
    - i. Thompson says that some people want to leave it alone; some people think it should be cleaned up and somewhat re-vegetated. This is going to be a big decision that the ECPC will be making, so if any commissioners have any

thoughts please share them with the ECPC. The Planning Department is looking for the EC to make recommendations.

- v. Gorman asks what the benefit is to have it cleaned up and made into a park-like area.
    - i. Thompson says that the answer is that there are a lot of invasive species in the area right now, but when this PUD was originally created there was supposed to be a sidewalk or path from the Redbud Assisted Care Center to the north side of the theater, between the theater and Hobby Lobby, but the point was so Rosebud residents could get to those shops. Also right now there is quite a large population of homeless people that live in the area.
  - vi. Moncavage asks whether management or upkeep of the area will feature into the proposal.
    - i. Thompson says that yes, the developers have to come up with a management plan.
  - vii. Crampton asks at what point is design or architecture issues come up, and who makes the decision about what fits in to the City.
    - i. Thompson explains that the Planning and Zoning Ordinance has language about these things; they have to have a front entrance look a certain way with lots of windows and so on, and the height of the building and setback is proscribed. So, the developer has some regulations they have to follow, but in general the City doesn't have any regulations against ugly.
  - viii. Julian went to the Arts Commission to discuss aesthetics, and also spoke to the City Council. He also wanted to speak to the Planning Commission but the PC doesn't have a time for public comment. Julian feels the buildings that have been going up have been boring and hideous.
- B. L4L Natural Landscaping Committee (5 min: Diane, Kriste) (Time Mark: 8:32 pm)
- a. Jung and Lindberg are not present. Albright briefly introduces the committee and explains that they advocate for natural landscaping without pesticides/herbicides. Jung has made quite a presence at the Farmer's Market, she gives out free garden signs to those engaging in natural landscaping to advertise to the community that they're not using pesticides or herbicides on their lawn. The L4L Natural Landscaping Committee makes and distributes a lot of brochures and tables at community events.
  - b. Crampton asks whether there is interest in xeriscape in the City or in the Natural Landscaping Committee. Thompson responds that the Commission promotes native plants, but doesn't use that term a whole lot.
    - i. Litwin adds that Bloomington has a huge reservoir, so water availability is not an issue.
- C. BEQI Committee (5 min: Carissa, Carrie, Jayne) (Time Mark: 8:35 pm)
- a. Piepenburg explains that through her meeting with Thompson and Whitney, the three of them feel that the BEQI report can be transitioned into a part of the Climate Action Plan (CAP), and packaging the information in this way might help increase the impactfulness of the report.
  - b. Piepenburg will continue to work with all interested commissioners on this project to create a concrete and concise document that can be presented to City Council.
  - c. Piepenburg and the CAP Committee is hoping to model the Bloomington's CAP off of Portland, OR's CAP. Piepenburg will send a copy of Portland's CAP to all of the commissioners to review.
- D. Tree Commission (10 min: Dedaimia) (Time Mark: 8:46 pm)
- a. Whitney explains that the Tree Commission is a group that advises the urban foresters. Her main takeaway from the Commission is that we are lucky to have an urban forester; Bloomington is also home to Burnie Fisher, who completed a tree inventory for the City of Bloomington. The Tree Commission is comprised of 6-8 people, including a biologist, a professor of sociology, some landscape architects, and a member that represents EC (Whitney).
    - a. Basically what the tree commission does is talk about planting new trees, taking out old trees, and threats to trees or the tree canopy.
    - b. The Emerald Ash Borer is a big issue, as it is killing trees.
  - b. The Tree Commission had a meeting yesterday. A walking trail to be installed in cascades gold course that would involve taking out 90 trees was appealed, and apparently the appeal was lost.

- a. The Tree Commission is also tasked with protecting the city's canopy, so 90 trees is a fairly significant number.
  - c. Two utilities are wanting to clear their right-of-ways of trees. One was Vectren, who came a couple of months ago to the Tree Commission, and their request is kind of controversial. Where they own the right of way, all they have to do is talk to the owners of the property. Some of Vectren's pipes run under City property, and there's been some negotiating going about which trees they'll cut and what will replace them. Duke also popped up this month and wants to put in bigger poles in some locations, from Dunn Street to Smith Road. Duke also wants to clear all the brush from the Polly Grimshaw Trail, and the City Forester is highly in favor of that proposal.
  - d. Another project on Rockport Road that will involve cutting some trees; this project involves installing sidewalks Countryside Lane and will cost from \$900 thousand to \$1.2million.
  - e. The installation of a single lane roundabout on 17<sup>th</sup> street was also discussed at the meeting. There is some irony in this proposal, as the City will have to cut down three trees that they planted, and the same three trees displayed on the cover of the City's Tree Care Guide.
  - f. Lee Huss has written two smallish grants to get money to plant trees.
  - g. The Tree Commission got a report from Mia Williams, a landscape architect who works for IU, who discussed IU's master plan and their improvements to Woodlawn, which seem really great.
    - a. Gorman says the plan is to eventually extend Woodlawn up through campus.
  - h. Whitney says that one of the things that came out of the meeting is that the IN Railroad is not granting any more street-level crossings, so IU is hoping to trade one crossing in exchange for a new one.
- E. Climate Action Plan (10 min: Deborah, Dedaimia, Carrie, Linda, Jayne)
- a. This topic was discussed during the time allotted for BEQI.
- F. MPO CAC (5 min: Chaim)
- a. Julian was unable to attend the meeting.

7. Old business (25 min)

(Time Mark: 8:57 pm)

- A. 2014 project list and committee membership (25 min: Linda, et al)
  - a. The Environmental Commission in the middle of some projects that are going to last into next year; later in the year we may have to jump into the Master Plan. The Master Plan is on hiatus because the Planning Department is evaluating public input, and they're going to resurrect the steering committee early in 2014, looking to the end of the year to complete the project.
  - b. Under highest priority:
    - i. Climate Action Plan
    - ii. Ecoheroes, first of the year
    - iii. The tree letter and the letter to the Utility Committee.
    - iv. Albright says that the commission should do whatever the commissioners feel passionate about, but also the commission should work as a team. She says we can point to our main points of contact for given projects on this list, and asks us to evaluate what kind of capacity each commissioner has individually to dedicate to something new or different.
      - 1. The CAP is a huge, important project. The Environmental Commission might have different committees for different topics because we all have different expertise.
        - i. Albright is envisioning the whole EC to be part of the CAP, with everyone chipping in for edits, help us with statistical stuff and so on.
    - v. Sharrow is interested in the Greenspace report
      - 1. Perhaps this can be added to the CAP.
    - vi. Hypothetically, the next intern will spend a lot of time on Eco-heroes, but it won't take up their whole time.
    - vii. BCOS is doing work on Community STAR rating. The Environmental Commission might keep an eye on their projects and make sure there is no overlap

8. Commissioner announcements (15 min) 9:15

- A. Thompson wants to remind people of Doug Tallamy talk tomorrow afternoon; his expertise is pollinators, and his book is called Bringing Nature Home.
- B. Litwin announces that he visited the Ford Museum and Assembly Plant in Detroit. The assembly plant has a green roof that is 5.5 acres of cedum. It has made a significant difference in heating and cooling for the building.

9. Adjournment

(Time Mark: 9:19 pm)

- A. Gorman moves to adjourn. Litwin seconds. The motion passes unanimously.