



## City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

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

### MINUTES

18 June 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

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

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

Absent: Linda Thompson, Kriste Lindberg, Sean Gorman

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

The EC has a new commissioner: Nicholas Kappas

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

Approved by voice vote; 8 yes, 2 abstentions

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

Dan McHolm

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

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

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

The ECPC discussed two petitions:

1. Remodeled building

- It was a consent agreement.

2. House construction on Covenant Drive

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

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

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

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

C. Tree Commission (5 min: Dedaimia)

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

D. ERAC (5 min: David Parkhurst)

David did not attend the meeting and had no report.

E. BCOS (5 min: Andrea)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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B. Recycling Subcommittee (15 min: David Debikey)

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Meeting with BCOS leadership team (Dedaimia)

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

B. Speakers for future meetings (brainstorm)

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

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

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

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

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

#### Meeting times

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