



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

15 October 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

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

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

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

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

2. Approval of minutes

September EC minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

3. Public comment

No public comment

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

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

5. Committee reports & discussions

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

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

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

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G. BCOS (5 min: Jana)

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

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