



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

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

MINUTES

16 July 2015

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions

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

Absent: Dave Debikey, Mike Litwin

Guest: Steven Hale, Food Policy Council

2. Approval of minutes

June minutes unanimously approved by voice vote

3. Public comment

No public comment

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

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

5. Committee reports & discussions

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

1. Upland Brewery on 11th Street

January 13, 2016

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

January 13, 2016

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

E. BCOS (BCOS representative)

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

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

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

6. Old business

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

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

B. Recycling Subcommittee (Andy)

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

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

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

7. New business

A. EPA 5-year report (all)

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

B. Committee responsibilities (Dedaimia)

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

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

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

January 13, 2016

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

9. Adjournment

Meeting times

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