



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, 21 January 2010, 7:00 pm
City Hall – McCloskey Room
401 North Morton Street

Attending: Jacqui Bauer, Regina DiLamore, Trevor Hagedorn (intern),
Kriste Lindberg, Andrea Need, Mary Ruhter, Heather Reynolds,
Linda Thompson (staff), Keith Vogelsang
Special Visitor: Dave Rollo (City Council Member)
Absent: Michael Litwin, Mike Tosick (Chair)

I. Announcements:

- A. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thurs., 2/18/10, 7:00 pm, McCloskey Room
- B. Next Planning Committee meetings: 1/14/10, 1/27/10, and 2/11/10, 4:00 pm, Planning Dept.
- C. Other upcoming EC-related meetings:
 - 1. Green Building Committee meeting: 1/25/10, 5:30 pm, 908 W. 8th Street
 - 2. Earth Week Activity Committee: TBD
 - 3. MPO CAC: Wed., 1/27/10, 6:30 pm, McCloskey room
 - 4. Tree Commission: Wed., 2/17/10, 9:30 am, Rose Hill Cemetery office
 - 5. Toxins Committee: Fri., 1/15/10 12:15 pm, McAlister's

II. Approval of Minutes:

- A. Jacqui Bauer motions to approve December EC minutes with submitted edits
- B. Kriste Lindberg seconds
- C. Passes unanimously

III. Public comment:

- A. None
- B. If EC members notice soil erosion or wish to submit comments regarding ongoing projects within the City of Bloomington, please email Rick Alexander, City Engineering Assistant Manager, at alexandr@bloomington.in.gov.

IV. Reports:

- A. Planning Committee & Sr. Environmental Planner
 - 1. Heather Reynolds' Updates:
 - a. Patterson Point is an ongoing project being redeveloped by Mark Fig near the intersection of Patterson and 3rd Street. This particular project is a PUD, which requires that the project come before City Council. At a City Council meeting on 1/20/2010 the majority of council members were dissatisfied with the project's proposed boulevard parking plan. The EC had previously requested that this project adhere to the principles of complete streets and pedestrian oriented design. The

attempt to support on-street parking at the site was not successful. City Council ultimately compromised by sending the project back to the Plan Commission with an option of either on-street parking or a boulevard design. EC members are encouraged to read the Herald Times website to gather a deeper understanding of citizens' concerns and questions related to the project.

2. Linda Thompson's Updates:

- a. The last ECPC meeting covered three cases, two of which have been continued. Both of the two continued projects are located near the intersection of Tapp Road and Rockport Road.
- b. The third project is located on the Corner of College Ave. and 11th Street. The site includes two older homes in a state of disrepair, both of which the petitioner intends to renovate. The homes' foundations will be rebuilt, Energy Star appliances will be installed, a recycling area will be situated on site, and weak/poorly placed trees will be removed. Additionally, an apartment building is slated to be built behind the homes. Features to be included in the project include indoor and outdoor bike parking, replacing the sidewalk, and paving a gravel alley. Thompson distributed photographs, site plans, and illustrations/renderings pertaining to the proposed development. The petitioner is seeking a three year stay so that the site can be developed in two phases: 1) renovate the two existing homes; 2) construct the apartment building. The ECPC recommends green building initiatives and an improved landscape plan. Reynolds suggests adding the following to the EC's recommendations: using 100 year paint to cover the asbestos siding (given that the petitioner has ruled out asbestos removal do to financial constraints).

B. EC/BCOS Green Building Committee

1. Jacqui Bauer's Updates:

- a. Bauer attended the Green Historic Preservation symposium in Indianapolis on 1/21/2010. The symposium covered issues related to building reuse, as well as a comparison of different green building rating systems. One particular contrast between the systems is the fact that LEED does not award points for materials reuse/recycling if a redeveloper reuses an entire building. While conversely, a British rating system allots the maximum points for materials reuse/recycling if a building is reused. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has unsuccessfully attempted to persuade the USBGC to recognize building reuse.
- b. A new EPA rule will go into effect in April 2010. The rule indicates that anyone receiving compensation for doing improvements to homes built before 1978 will be required to receive lead safety training. Criticism of the new rule has focused on how this requirement may disadvantage urban and first-ring suburban renewal, as this will likely lead to homeowners paying a premium for repair services to their older homes.
- c. Logistics are still being worked out for the 2010 Green Building Tour on April 17th 2010. Thus far, tentative stops on the tour include an Earth Care church, World Wide Automotive, New Wings Middle Way House, and a passive residence on 8th street.

C. Toxins Committee report

1. Regina DiLamore's Updates:

- a. WFHB has decided not to pursue a grant due to an overly narrow time frame.
- b. DiLamore and Ruhter have met twice in the past week, and once with Professor Diane Henshel (Toxicologist and I.U. SPEA faculty). Henshel is interested in having students from her risk assessment class assist the EC Toxins Committee. Within the next two weeks EC Toxins representatives should deliver a project scope statement to Henshel to clarify goals and expected deliverables. Furthermore, the

spatial scale of the project needs to be clarified as to whether or not the area of investigation will focus solely on land within the City of Bloomington, or extend to the Monroe County limits. It appears that the project could be divided into two sections: 1) releases into air, water, groundwater, soil; 2) stored chemicals that could be a potential hazard. A rough time frame for the Toxins project is as follows: students complete data acquisition by the end of semester (May 2010); Toxins Committee organizes and interprets data over the summer of 2010; EC utilizes an intern in the autumn of 2010 to build a website to post the data and findings.

- c. Henshel mentioned that geo-coded hospital data exists per Bloomington neighborhood. Henshel thought that Council Member Rollo may be able to assist the EC in acquiring the data. This health data would be useful in analyzing relationships between spatial locations of toxins and occurrences of health problems, such as cancer.
- d. Henshel is interested in joining the EC Toxins Committee

D. EC/BCOS Water Committee

1. Kriste Lindberg's Updates:

- a. Lindberg met with Water Committee members on 1/21/2010 via WebEx to review the report findings (Peak Oil, Whitman, STAR, and Matt Laherty's), next steps, and more.
- b. Within the Water Committee, Matt Laherty is overseeing committee processes and procedures; Jim Sherman is dealing with pricing and financials; Melissa Clark and Lindberg are focusing on issues related to education and outreach.
- c. Mayor Kruzan, Cynthia Schultz, and Water Committee members have met to discuss findings from Matt Laherty's report and the overall direction of the committee.
- d. The Water Committee plans to work with marketing students of Professor Benjamin Schultz (I.U. Kelley School faculty) to improve communication and outreach, in addition to assisting with intermediate steps related to numerous reports.
- e. A Bio-Retention Tour is scheduled for July 24th 2010 and is being offered through People's University. Employees from both city of Bloomington and Monroe County will be leading the event. An informational session at Twin Lakes Lodge will be the starting point of the tour, after which attendees will board a City of Bloomington bus to visit roughly a half dozen bio-retention sites (which includes a mixture of residential, commercial, and industrial locations). The basic time frame for the event is from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

E. Metropolitan Planning Organization & Transportation

1. Regina DiLamore's Updates:

- a. The MPO/CAC has not met since November. The next meeting will occur in the last week of January.
- b. A public meeting concerning the proposed Sare Road roundabout took place on 1/21/2010. The proposed (Spring 2011) roundabout would be located at the intersection of E. Sare Road and S. Rogers Road. All EC members are encouraged to submit comments to Joyce Williams (City Engineering Project Manager) by 2/11/2010.

F. Intern status & update

1. Andrea Need's Updates:

- a. Need and Bauer spoke with former EC intern, Sarah Batto, in a final meeting to conclude her work.
- b. Thompson has widely distributed an advertisement for a new EC intern to replace Batto. Need has also posted the advertisement at the I.U. Mauer School of Law, as

well as distributed it to the I.U. Environmental Law Society. Bauer will verify that the posting has been submitted to the I.U. Office of Sustainability.

2. Trevor Hagedorn's Updates:
 - a. Hagedorn and Need met to discuss the conditions of approval project. Hagedorn later met with Thompson to discuss her expectations of the project and to provide him with a cursory overview of the process for documenting and storing the conditions/project reports, as well as the ECPC minutes, notes, and supporting materials. Hagedorn, Need, and Thompson will meet immediately following the close of the January EC meeting to discuss this project in greater detail.
 - b. Hagedorn has reviewed four months of petitioners' project documents. He has created an electronic spreadsheet to assist in tracking the petitioners' specific cases that include conditions of approval related to matters of environmental significance.
- G. Trashion update
 1. Kriste Lindberg's Updates:
 - a. A design for the Trashion/ReFashion Show has been approved for entry. The EC partnered with a group of agencies to submit a design for the reused apparel fashion show. The show will take place at 7:00 pm on 2/20/2010 at the Convention Center. Donations are still being accepted for items to be included in the silent auction.
- H. ERAC property purchase update
 1. Mike Litwin's Announcements: (Absent)

V. New business:

- A. Gift for Phaedra Pezzullo discussion
 1. Pezzullo recently gave birth to a baby boy. All commissioners are encouraged to submit gift ideas to Bauer.
- B. Bloomington Sustainability Newsletter
 1. Jacqui Bauer's Updates:
 - a. The local chapter of the USGBC has suggested creating a quarterly publication which would cover the activities of numerous local organizations. The project is being spearheaded by Carol Wagner, Cynthia Schultz, and Carol Gulyas.
 - b. BCOS has created a system of devoting a theme to each month (January -- Jobs and Employment). BCOS plans to coordinate with the local chapter of the USGBC and other organizations so that topics related to the monthly theme are covered in the USGBC newsletter. The following themes have been scheduled: April -- Housing and Green Building; July -- Water and Sustainable Site Design. Commissioners are encouraged to submit their ideas for future themes to Bauer. Bauer will forward a list of proposed BCOS monthly themes to all commissioners.
- C. Committee representatives for 2010
 1. Linda Thompson's Updates:
 - a. Numerous openings in various EC committees still exist. (Ex. I.U. Themester; I.U. e-Waste collection; pharmaceutical collection project)
 - b. Mary Ruhter confirmed her intent to join the Water Committee.
 - c. If any commissioners know of qualified applicants willing to join the EC, please have them send their CV and letter of intent to the city clerk.

VI. Old business:

- A. MLK Day 2010 results
 1. Kriste Lindberg's Updates:
 - a. Three participants created an 11' by 4' mural depicting drainage (stormwater, a cave, sinkholes, and a stream). Lindberg emailed photos of the mural to all

commissioners. Aurora Alternative High School, with Lindberg's assistance, sent out a thank you letter. The letter will be submitted with photos to the Herald Times.

B. Prescription drug collection update

1. Linda Thompson's Updates:

- a. Thompson attended a meeting called by Monroe County Prosecutor Chris Gaal concerning the pharmaceutical collection project.
- b. Currently, the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (MCSWMD) collects pharmaceuticals (with the exception of controlled substances) during normal operating hours. MCSWMD also participates in a police-monitored annual collection in conjunction with the Area 10 Agency on Aging, whereby controlled and non-controlled substances are collected.
- c. Maneuvering the bureaucratic and procedural hurdles across multiple organizations is ongoing. While the discourse needed to get the project underway is moving forward, challenges remain pertaining to the pharmaceutical collection and processing policies of numerous authorities and agencies.
- d. Until the project is functional, community members are encouraged to utilize the MCSWMD and certain local pharmacies for their non-controlled pharmaceutical disposal needs.

VII. Commissioner Announcements and additional reports:

A. Jacqui Bauer's Announcements:

1. Bauer requests the assistance of the Toxins Committee (or a fellow expert) in delivering a class lecture/presentation to a 100-level I.U. course focusing on environment and people on either February 2nd or 4th in the evening.

B. Kriste Lindberg's Updates:

1. Lindberg was invited to present in early February at the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers. Her presentation will focus on the Citizen Scientist certification program.
2. The Indiana Karst Conservancy has issued Lindberg an outstanding service award. The EC congratulated Lindberg on her achievement.

C. Andrea Need's Updates:

1. On 1/20/2010 Need attended a presentation by University of Miami Professor, Brian Soden. Soden's talk, titled 'Extreme Makeover: Planet Earth Edition', used an innovative way of conveying the negative effects of climate change. In particular, Soden modeled the regional effect of global warming on the state of Illinois. Following his projections, the climate of Illinois in 2100 will be synonymous with present day Texas.

D. Keith Vogelsang's Updates:

1. Vogelsang, after attending the presentation by Soden, wrote an Eco-Report on the presentation. Vogelsang notes the validity of the findings due to the fact that Soden was one of the lead authors of the technical assessment of the 2007 IPCC report.

E. Heather Reynolds' Updates:

1. Reynolds has informed Sue Wanzer from the City Clerk's Office that she is not seeking reappointment to the EC for the 2010 year. The EC applauded Reynolds' for nearly ten years of remarkable service and devotion.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A. Jacqui Bauer motions to adjourn at 8:25 PM
- B. Regina DiLamore seconds
- C. Passes unanimously