



**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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES

21 April 2022, 6:00 PM

Hybrid meeting

<https://catstv.net/m.php?q=11083>

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

Call to order at 6:07.

Sam Armstrong Present
Dedaimia Whitney Present
Luke Swain Present
Don Eggert Present
David Parkhurst Present
Matt Caldie Present
Mike Litwin Present
Carrie Albright Remotely present (Zoom)

2. Approval of minutes:*

Sam Yay
Dedaimia Yay
Luke Yay
Don Yay
David Yay
Matt Yay
Mike Yay
Carrie Yay

Minutes were approved unanimously. However, not appropriately.

3. Reports from: Tree Commission (TC), Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC), Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS), Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC), Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council

(MPOCAC), Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM), & Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS), Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC).

TC: The committee did not meet this month. However, David will send the foresters report to the EC when he receives it from Erin Hatch.

MCEC: Sam was unable to attend this meeting. However, on their website they did include their minutes from the month of January. During this meeting they discussed senate bill 411. This bill is related to commercial solar and wind energy. They also discussed the Bloomington and Monroe County Hoosier Resiliency Index. They also had a climate action site discussion, which Sam will send more information about in an email. Lastly, they discussed the court ruling on the U.S. Forest Service Houston Logging Project.

BCOS: Laura Clemens discussed a website that they are developing in which you can report actions related to decreasing emissions. It is a similar project in regard to our connectivity plan just with emissions. Unfortunately, they spent the bulk of their meeting going over Robert's Rules of Order.

ERAC: The commission met at lower cascades. This area previously had a lot of erosion that has been replaced by limestone steps. The Clear creek trail has been granted extensions..... David needs to send minutes

MPO-CAC: We are not sure when this committee meets. Dedaimia is conditionally interested if they meet at a time that works for her.

FOLM: Currently not active because they are waiting for a government grant to come in.

MC-IRIS: They have been working in Jackson Creek and Southeast Park conducting restoration work. The plant Celandine is spreading very rapidly in Bloomington according to Don. In just two years it has spread through Southeast Park. However, on an uplifting note, the work MC-IRIS has done in these areas has allowed for many native species to flourish. Glyphosate was brought up again and was discussed as being a necessary evil. For more information you can refer to the previous month's meeting when we had two licensed applicators discuss this chemical.

ECPC: At the last meeting the group developed two ideas. The first was to come up with a checklist to give to the planning department that ensures that they are looking at all the environmental aspects of a plan. Another option is to ask the counsel to ensure the planning department gives plans that don't address environmental issues of the UDO, to the EC to look at. This will allow the ECPC to carry out their work. The language that we would use would be if a proposal had site specific concerns. So, the action items the EC needs to do is to come up with items to put on the check list of site-specific concerns to give to the counsel. The ECPC will develop this and have an emergency session to vote on this. The emergency meeting will be next Thursday the 28th. Mike, Dedaimia, and David will meet with The Planning Director as soon as possible.

4. Discussion from active working groups:

A. Biodiversity working group:

1. Update on Connectivity Plan

Ben just needs to combine the pledge with the Map instructions. Everything else is complete. Adopt a greenspace is similar to the Habitat Connectivity Plan, however, it helps manage public land and not private.

2. *Next steps of biodiversity working group*

During this meeting the working group discussed the next steps. Essentially, what needs to be done to get more people to participate in the plan.

3. *BEQI progress update*

No update

B. Eco Heroes working group last-minute specifics:

We did not have enough participation in this event this year, so we will not be holding an in-person celebration. Instead, a slide show will be made.

C. Air Quality working group: update

An air quality working group meeting needs to be made soon. David hopes his friend will be able to join the meeting. The Carlisle Break factory has received many complaints, so if we are interested, we should report this location to the EPA. Linda will be ordering the monitors soon. Sam and Luke are both interested in carrying around monitors.

5. New business:

A. Discussion on ways to support the removal of Callery pear trees

It may be crucial to encourage neighborhood associations to promote removing Callery pears. Finding ways to make removal more affordable will be extremely difficult. The small and simple grant is not enough to cut down these trees. Dedaimia suggested looking at federal grants and applying to some. It would be a good idea to mention this to MC-IRIS.

6. Old business:

A. Letter of support for ban on polypropylene erosion/turf netting *

We did not vote properly. This vote will need to be redone.

B. SAGE-FEST at South HS results

This event went very well last Friday. Many other environmental groups were there. EC members gave away various materials and informed students of the Habitat Connectivity Plan.

C. Handbook revision update

This will be discussed at the next meeting. Ben will send this out again for everyone to look at.

7. Commissioner announcements:

COCORAHs was mentioned again and next month the Director of the Conservation Law center will be giving the EC a presentation.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM

* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: May 19, 2022, 6:00 p.m., TBD