



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 OCTOBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2024, 6:00 PM

Hooker Meeting Room #245

Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here: https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixi_hO.1&omn=81563021562

Meeting ID: 865 723 1124

Passcode: COBPT

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS):

<https://catstv.net/government.php>. Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation: 6:03 pm

2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoo</u> <u>m</u> X
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie		X	
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Gabby Robles			
Karena Tankersley			X

Rachael Sargent
Johnson,
City Liaison
Fiona Kilgore,
Graduate Fellow

3. Approval of September 2024 minutes*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
	X		<u>n</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie			
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Adam Martinez	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Gabby Robles	X		
Karenna Tankersley			

David Parkhurst motioned to vote on meeting minutes, and Mike Litwin seconded. All present voted yes.

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No public comments.

5. Old Business

a. Title 2* (Carrie Albright, Rachael Johnson)

Rachael passed the EC's Title 2 recommendations to the legal department, which had a few recommendations. David caught that we had intended to shorten the commission's name, which was not reflected in the packet. Rachael shared some small grammar and conciseness in the suggested writings. David agreed with the suggestions, and other members agreed as well.

David Parkhurst motioned to approve Title 2 recommendations; Mitchell Owens seconded. All present voted yes.

b. Priorities for 2025 (Carrie Albright, Matt Caldie, Karenna

Tankersley)

Carrie discussed how the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary have been envisioning the EC's future priorities, including onboarding new appointees within a month of appointment, and reframing the bucket list meeting and focusing on SMART goals, to ensure we can actually act on the EC priorities. The previously named "bucket list" meeting would be moved from January to the November meeting, and would include determining which working groups would be prioritized. Carrie shared that moving into the future, there would be an expectation that EC members would be actively involved in at least one working group, and that ideally the working groups would have clearer project scopes and would provide quarterly updates.

Karena asked about the timing of the EC Overview meeting, and Carrie and Karena agreed that March would make sense to catch up new appointees and allow them to share their ideas and ask questions. Matt asked about whether officer elections should be pushed to March as well. Nadia pointed out that the March meeting would likely fall on Indiana University's Spring Break, which would likely create conflict for students during the March EC meeting.

- c. Working group updates
 - i. Water Quality

No meeting this month; trying to schedule something before the November Meeting.

- ii. Biodiversity

No meeting this month; trying to schedule something before the November Meeting.

- iii. Special Projects

Carrie envisions this group as offering funding and administrative support to other working groups, doing grant research, etc. Mitchell showed interest.

6. New Business

- a. Earth Day 2025 / EcoHeroes Discussion (Fiona Kilgore)

Fiona floated multiple ideas for Eco Heroes themes including car-free futures, habitat connectivity, pollinators and low waste. Mitchell and Carrie mentioned

that the pollinator theme would match the BDWG of pursuing Bee City USA certification. The idea of urban ecosystems as a theme was also floated. Matt asked how long we have before a theme decision was needed, and Rachael answered that the EC would need a decision around January.

b. Composting / Title 6 Discussion (Rachael Johnson)

John Hewitt from Housing and Neighborhood Development Department received a questionnaire about city interest in composting, and asked to be in the loop if it comes up in future EC meetings. Matt and Karena mentioned that BCOS usually initiates composting initiatives.

7. Reports from:

a. Tree Commission (TC)

David:

Haskell Smith mentioned that 71 trees have been planted recently. 1100 had been planted on a grant for the past year. Canopy Bloomington asked to give a presentation to the TC in the future.

Legal suggested that the TC should be involved in tree appeals.

Matt mentioned that if Haskell wants a letter of support from the EC for a future grant, the EC would be open to that.

b. Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)

No reports.

c. Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)

David:

Nothing to report on.

d. Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)

No reports.

e. Monroe County – Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

No reports.

8. Commissioner announcements

David talked about the technological difficulties of running a population modeling program he worked on in the past.

Matt mentioned that the weather is good currently, and he wanted to consider a date for an EC weed wrangle in the near future.

Rachael reminded everyone that there are two EC vacancies open currently, and that notice should be given to attend a meeting remotely. EC members also have to attend more than half of meetings in person.

Mike decided not to renew his seat on the Environmental Commission, and will leave after December.

9. Upcoming Meeting

- a. November 21, 2024, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

10. Adjournment: 7:00 pm

Mike Litwin motioned to adjourn; Mitchell Owens seconded.

** Item to be voted on*

The City is committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals.

If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Melissa Hirtzel at hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. §

5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

The Bloomington Environmental Commission (EC) wishes to acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities native to this region, and recognize that the City of Bloomington, Indiana was built on indigenous homelands and resources.