



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 AUGUST 2024 MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room # 245  
Hybrid meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here: <https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/6359441221?pwd=bXRYTnNJV2xMbTRLLeE00QW9XWnRjQT09> Meeting ID: 635 944 1221  
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: 6:02 pm

2. Introductions and Roll Call In person Absent

	<del>Zoom</del> Carrie Albright	
Megan Bankowski		X
Nadia Cain		X
Matt Caldie	X	
Shannon	X	
Gayk Mike	X	
Litwin Adam	X	
Martinez	X	
Megan	X	
Murphy	X	
Mitchell		X
Owens David	X	
Parkhurst	X	
Gabby Robles		

Karena Tankersley  
Rachael Sargent, City  
Liaison TBD, Graduate  
Fellow

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Matt motioned to move new business in front of old business, Karena seconded. All present voted yes.

3. Approval of July 2024 minutes:*	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
	<del>Abstain</del>	Carrie Albright	
Megan Bankowski	X		
Nadia Cain			X
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon	X		
Gayk Mike	X		
Litwin Adam	X		
Martinez	X		
Megan	X		
Murphy	X		
Mitchell	X		
Owens David	X		
Parkhurst			
Gabby			
Robles			
Karena Tankersley			

David moved, Matt seconded. All present voted yes.

4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No public comments were made.

5. New business

A. YIMBYana Local Housing Policy Reform - Letter of Support\* (Adam Martinez)

B. Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule Amendment - Letter of Support\* (Rachael Sargent)

A. YIMBYana

A representative, Matt Gleason, from YIMBYana expressed that the organization is interested in removing parking mandates, reducing lot size, increasing density per lot, increasing mixed use zoning, and improving mobility infrastructure for public transport, among other things.

David asked about parking mandates, and the representative clarified that currently businesses are required to have a certain number of parking spaces, and YIMBYana is not in favor of this requirement.

Shannon and Megan M asked about the logistics of advocating for additional criteria beyond what was outlined in the letter, and the representative explained that support for more specific policies down the line would be welcome, but that the letter was kept broad intentionally.

Adam, who helped draft the letter, clarified that signatures are intended to display support of the general outline, and that more specific policies would be advocated for on a case by case basis down the line.

Carrie commented that it is important to be thinking about access for people with disabilities, who may not have bike-riding options, or access to other traditionally environmentalist alternatives.

Shannon asked for more information about the organization YIMBYana. Our guest explained that they are a new organization with focus on advocating for increasing density, housing equity, and affordability.

Matt said that upon second look of the packet, it appears that the EC is being asked to sign support for the first sentence and the first sentence of the last paragraph, and not every single detail laid out in the letter. It was agreed that signing the letter would indicate support for the spirit of the organization's goals in congruence with environmental issues, and not any specifics beyond that. Matt stated that he was comfortable with signing the letter as is.

Carrie asked what groups have been asked for support so far, and the guest answered that individuals from city council and the affiliate national organization were looking to discuss further opportunities for finding support.

Shannon suggested that some of the language could be cut so that it does not appear that the EC is endorsing every individual policy goal.

Megan M motioned to postpone voting on the letter until next month. David seconded the motion. All present voted yes. The motion passed.

## B. Invasive Amendment

Rachael provided background on the letter and offered to answer questions. David motioned to approve the letter as is, Matt seconded the motion. All present voted yes. The motion passed.

## 6. Old business:

- A. WFHB PSA (Carrie Albright)
- B. Bug Fest 2024 (Megan Murphy)
- C. Working group updates

### A. WFHB Public Service Announcement

WFHB suggested the EC be involved in the activate program for a 5 minute segment. Matt suggested Mitchell would be a good candidate for speaking, though Matt volunteered that he would be willing to talk if it wasn't solo. Karenna expressed interest in talking about the BDWG. Megan M suggested that our call to action could be asking people to bring their concerns to the EC. Mike asked about the timeline and suggested getting input via email. Carrie agreed that she would look for input via email.

### B. Bug Fest

Megan M mentioned that the EC booth will be a stamp-carrying station this year, and that Nadia had made a nice draft for bug bingo. The EC table was set to have resources on natural plantings and native pollinators. Matt asked about having a laptop for the HCP map, which was agreed to have logistical challenges. Megan M collected volunteer

information.

### C. Working Group

Matt mentioned that he went out with Shawn to place some of the monitors for air quality. Rachael asked about working group meeting logistics, and requested to be updated by email.

#### 7. Reports from:

- Tree Commission (TC)
- Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)
- Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)
- Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
- Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)

#### Dave

- Tree Commission: No report.
- ERAC: Millers Showers Park pond maintenance was discussed. Callery Pears have been removed, and EcoLogic will be restoring a part of the park. They discussed outreach materials, BugFest, and Nature Days for school children. They discussed Swifts entering Prairie View school, a Resilience Plan for storms and natural disasters, a stilt grass vegetation management plan, and the status of a few parks and trails around town.
- FoLM: No report.

#### Matt

- BCOS: BCOS had several new members, and discussed how they would share materials. They discussed HOAs and how to change methods for HOA enforcement of sustainability related issues.

#### Rachael

- MCIRIS: They talked about an award, weed wrangles, and the native plant sale. More information about the weed wrangles can be found at the websites: <https://www.mc-iris.org/volunteering.html>. Rachael committed to passing along their meeting minutes.

#### 8. Commissioner announcements:

Mike: Discussed the Plan Commission meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> considering UDO changes – specifically surrounding developer incentives to protect steep slopes. Rachael mentioned that steep slopes code proposal will likely be finalized in October because Bloomington’s law currently does not align with IN state law, due to recent change at the state level.

Rachael: Passed along Linda’s kind regards.

Carrie: Promoted many tree planting opportunities through September.

Matt motioned the EC adjourn and Megan M seconded.

#### 9. Adjournment: 7:09 pm

\* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: September 19, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

-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](mailto: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.