



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.

NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2024, 6:00 PM
Hooker Meeting Room #245
Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/8657231124?pwd=mPqboSiD0AhVwKSgkuW2aO7NHixihO.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: 6:12 pm
2. Introductions and Roll Call

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
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		X	
Karena Tankersley	X		

Rachael Johnson, X
City Liaison
Fiona Kilgore, X
Graduate Fellow

Note: Gabby sent a resignation notice to the commission shortly before the meeting.

3. Approval of October 2024 minutes*

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
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		

David moved to vote; Matt seconded. All present voted yes.

4. Public comment

Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No public comment.

5. Old Business

- a. Working group updates
 - i. Water Quality
 - ii. Biodiversity
 - iii. Special Projects

Water Quality Working Group

- Nothing to report

Biodiversity Working Group

- Nothing to report

Special Projects

- Nothing to report

6. New Business

a. 2025 Meeting Schedule (Rachael Johnson)

Rachael discussed the 2025 monthly meeting schedule, including a few rescheduled meetings due to national and University holidays.

b. Annual Planning Meeting (Carrie Albright)

- i. 2025 goals
- ii. 3 – 5 year goals
- iii. 2025 active working groups
 - I. Determine presentation dates

Carrie laid out three columns corresponding to the three categories above. EC members chimed in as desired to share ideas.

i. 2025 goals included

- Implementing an onboarding process for new commission members
- Establishing water quality contacts for data and priority setting
- Getting through the next steps on the UDO stream buffer rule, particularly pushing for an inventory of streams that would require special consideration
- Establishing social media accounts for the EC and generating content ideas
- Establishing an avenue for the public to bring environmental concerns to the EC's attention
- Gathering information on light pollution in the city, and exploring possibility of pursuing Dark Sky Place Certification in the future
 - Establishing a working group to take on this task
- Completing Bee City USA Certification process
 - Working with IU Bloomington as they pursue Bee Campus Certification
- Collaborating with the Clean Team to support IDEM clean community programming
- Finding projects for the ECPC to work on in collaboration with the Planning Department
- Updating the EC website with a wide range of environment-related resources
- Hosting a 2025 EcoHeroes contest

ii. 3-5 year goals paralleled many of the 2025 goals, and included

- Publishing a Water Quality Working Group report based on collected data
- Building a social media presence
 - Providing information about commissioners and commissioner projects
- Completing a stream inventory regarding the UDO stream buffer rule
- Developing educational workshop opportunities for EC members and/or the public
- Implementing light pollution reduction initiatives
- Pursuing city certifications as relevant to EC
- Receiving updates and communications about progress for the city Climate Action Plan

iii. Active working group and liaison activities in 2025 will be

- Light Pollution (new)
 - Adam, and Matt showed interest
 - Light pollution and Dark Sky Place Certification research

- Water Quality (continuing)
 - Mitchell, and David showed interest
 - Stream buffer rule progress
 - Water quality data analysis and report
 - Biodiversity (continuing)
 - Shannon, Carrie, Dave, and Matt showed interest
 - Karena will share information before leaving
 - Habitat Connectivity Plan update and relaunch
 - Bee City USA + native pollinator/plant projects
 - External resources for website
 - Special Projects
 - Carrie, and Mitchell showed interest
 - Administrative support for certifications and other projects as needed
 - Liaison Activities
 - Onboarding new EC members
 - Social media
 - Elected positions, especially treasurer
- I. Presentation schedule for working groups in 2025
- Jan. – Biodiversity
 - Feb. – EC 101 meeting (no working group presentation)
 - Mar. – Special projects
 - Apr. – Water Quality
 - May – Light Pollution
 - Jun. – Biodiversity
 - Jul. – Special projects
 - Aug. – Water Quality
 - Sep. – Light Pollution
 - Oct. – Biodiversity
 - Nov. – Annual planning meeting (no working group presentations)
 - Dec. – Light Pollution

7. Reports from:

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

David mentioned 2nd Street is likely to close down, or be reduced to one lane in the near future, which he found out during the TC meeting.

No other reports.

8. Commissioner announcements

N/A

9. Upcoming Meeting

- a. December 19, 2024, 6:00 pm, Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting; Matt seconded.

10. Adjournment: 8:00 pm

** 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