



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON COMMON COUNCIL

AGENDA AND NOTICE:
REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday | 6:30 PM
3 September 2025

*Council Chambers (#115), Showers Building, 401 N. Morton Street
The meeting may also be accessed at the following link:*

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85794059479?pwd=kGLkuv8VhXY8bo7zuyLGOcZidlytQq.1>

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **AGENDA SUMMATION**
3. **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**
 - February 5, 2025 – Regular Session
 - April 16, 2025 – Regular Session
 - July 7, 2025 – Regular Session
4. **REPORTS** *(A maximum of twenty minutes is set aside for each part of this section).*
 - A. Councilmembers
 - B. The Mayor and City Offices
 - Report from Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)
 - C. Council Committees
 - D. Public*
5. **APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**
 - Memo from Clerk Bolden
6. **LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READINGS**
 - A. Ordinance 2025-33 – To Establish The Fiber Connectivity Fund For Digital Opportunity Initiatives
 - B. Ordinance 2025-34 – To Establish A Fund for The Proceeds of The Surety Bond Secured for Work on Fiber Optics Network For The City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana
7. **LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS**
 - A. Resolution 2025-13 – To Establish The Affordable Housing PILOT Fund of The City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana

*Members of the public may speak on matters of community concern not listed on the agenda at one of the two public comment opportunities. Individuals may speak at one of these periods, but not both. Speakers are allowed up to three minutes.

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please call (812) 349-3409 or e-mail council@bloomington.in.gov.

Posted: August 29, 2025

B. Resolution 2025-14 – A Resolution of the Common Council of Bloomington, Indiana Designating Bloomington as A BEE CITY USA® Affiliate

8. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT * *A maximum of twenty-five minutes is set aside for this section.*

9. COUNCIL SCHEDULE

10. ADJOURNMENT

Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>
- YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

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Posted: August 29, 2025

Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, February 05, 2025, 6:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER [6:31pm]

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL (* indicates participation via Zoom) [6:31pm]

Members:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1, Council Vice President
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Ash Kulak	Deputy Council Attorney
Jackie Scanlan	Development Services Manager, Planning and Transportation
Anna Killion-Hanson	Director, Housing and Neighborhood Development
Jessica McClellan	City Controller
Margie Rice	Corporation Counsel
Gretchen Knapp	Deputy Mayor

3. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:32pm]

Stosberg spoke about Black History Month events, the Black Market and its history, and summarized the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:36pm]

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to approve the minutes as amended from May 15, 2024, September 04, 2024, and September 18, 2024. The motion was approved by voice vote.

5. REPORTS [6:37pm]

5.1. Councilmembers

Zulich discussed the Kirkwood Avenue street closure including accessibility and Bloomington Transit. She encouraged the community to give feedback.

Daily wished everyone a happy Black History Month. She noted her upcoming constituent meeting.

Rollo commented on an accident involving a bicycle and a bus on the Seventh Street corridor. He stated the removal of stop signs was hazardous. He discussed traffic-calming efforts and greenways.

Piedmont-Smith reported on the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County’s grant from the Lily Endowment totaling \$7,394,000 to work on homelessness in the community. She commented on the recent traveling Town Hall, the location of the Bloomington Police headquarters, public safety, and noted her upcoming constituent meeting.

Stosberg mentioned her upcoming constituent meeting.

5.2. The Mayor and City Offices

Clerk Nicole Bolden reported on council-appointed seats on boards and commissions, parking citation appeals, meeting minutes, the Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) board meeting, and legislation that would affect property taxes and city funding. She highlighted legislation that would impact municipalities. She wished everyone a happy Black History Month and spoke about its history and upcoming community events. She suggested that everyone consider being more deliberate in one’s purchasing and to buy from Black-owned brands and companies.

5.3. Council Committees

There were no reports from council committees.

5.4. Public

Eric Ost spoke about the recent accident on the Seventh Street corridor.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:01pm]

On behalf of Interview Committee Team B, Piedmont-Smith moved and Rollo seconded to make the following reappointments:

- For the Commission on the Status of Women - to reappoint Landry Culp to seat C-4.
- For the Community Advisory on Public Safety Commission - to reappoint Kamala Sparks-Brown to seat C-6.
- For the Environmental Commission - to reappoint Adam Martinez to seat C-5.
- For the Bloomington Digital Underground Advisory Committee - to reappoint Mike Allen to seat C-1.
- For the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission - to reappoint Latonya Wilson to seat C-3.

The motion was approved by voice vote. (Ruff out of the room)

On behalf of Interview Committee Team C, Zulich moved and Flaherty seconded to recommend the reappointment of Travis Harding to seat C-1 and Stephanie Freeman-Day to seat C-2 on the Tree Commission. The motion was approved by voice vote.

On behalf of Interview Committee Team A, Rosenbarger moved and Asare seconded to recommend the appointment of Diana Opata to seat C-1 on the Commission on the Status of Black Males. The motion was approved by voice vote.

7. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READINGS [7:03pm]

7.1. Ordinance 2025-05

To Amend the Following Titles of the Bloomington Municipal Code Regarding Resident Boards and Commissions: Title 2.12 “Boards, Commissions and Councils”, Title 2.19 “Housing and Neighborhood Development”, Title 2.23 “Community and Family Resources Department”, and Title 2.20 “Bloomington Board of Park Commissioners”

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis. Stosberg referred the legislation for a second reading at the February 19, 2025, meeting.

8. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READINGS AND RESOLUTIONS [7:12pm]

Asare moved and Zulich seconded to amend the agenda. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 3 (Asare, Rosenbarger, Zulich), Nays: 6, Abstain: 0. FAILED

8.1. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-01

To Additionally Appropriate from the General Fund For the Downtown Outreach Program

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 2025-01.

Jessica McClellan, Controller, said there was an error with the fund source and urged council to vote not to pass the legislation. The funding should be allocated from the Opioid Settlement funds and not the General Fund. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-01 had been properly advertised with a public hearing and could not be amended that evening.

Stosberg noted that the meeting that evening served as the public hearing. There was no public comment.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 2025-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 0, Nays: 9, Abstain: 0. FAILED

8.2. Ordinance 2025-03

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2024-20 That Fixed the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union, and A.F.S.C.M.E. Employees For All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana for the Year 2025

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-03 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-03.

Erica DeSantis, Director of Compensation and Benefits, Human Resources, explained the Workforce Evaluation and Realignment Committee (WERC) process, salary study phases, impact of state and federal funding losses, and issues specific to the Planning Department. She discussed staff salaries across the city and market rates. There was uncertainty due to the political landscape for federal and state funding. She gave details on the Planning department's staff salaries and grade increases. DeSantis explained the timeline, department head input, and goals for staff salaries. There was discussion on the sustainability of increased salaries, how the funding would be distributed to staff, and job grades.

Piedmont-Smith moved and Asare seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-03. Piedmont-Smith explained the typographical correction.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment, sponsored by Cm. Piedmont-Smith, would clarify that the number of the Grade 8 Project Manager positions within the Engineering Department will be changed from three to two, such that the Engineering Department will have two Grade 8 Project Managers. The third Project Manager is being converted to a Project Manager III position (see Section 1 of the ordinance).

There was no public comment.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-03 was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays, Abstain: 0.

There was discussion on the elimination, and creation, of some jobs in the Engineering department.

There was no public comment on Ordinance 2025-03 as amended.

Flaherty said that job grades 1, 2, and 3 did not meet the living wage requirement in the city. He clarified that some employees in Legal, ITS, and Engineering had job grades of 12 but were not department heads which was inconsistent. There were errors within the Planning department's job grades and compensation. He had lost confidence in the administration and the WERC process but he appreciated the modest improvements.

The motion to approve Ordinance 2025-03 as amended was approved by a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

8.3. Ordinance 2025-01

To Amend the District Ordinance and Preliminary Plan of A 3.2 Acre Planned Unit Development (PUD), The Curry PUD, In Order to Amend the Workforce Housing Contribution - Re: 105 S. Pete Ellis Drive (Bloomington SPCW JV, LLC, Petitioner)

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-01 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-01.

Jackie Scanlan, Development Services Manager, Planning department, noted that it was the third reading for the legislation. She provided a history of the PUD, zoning commitment, and the workforce housing commitment. Council discussed the value of a payment in lieu versus the benefit of workforce housing commitments. The petitioner was unable to fulfill the onsite housing commitment. Anna Killion-Hanson, Director, Housing and Neighborhood Development department, clarified that any petitioner could opt to do a payment in lieu instead of a housing commitment. The city needed to review the incentives for developers. Council discussed the new agreement. Tom Jason, Petitioner representative, confirmed that the petitioner was receptive of the agreement. There was additional discussion on repercussions for not being compliant with the agreement.

Kevin Keough offered public comment asking why rents could not be lowered.

Killion-Hanson explained that the city had worked with the petitioner to lower the rents, and noted restrictions with workforce housing. Tom Jason said the rents had been reduced and provided a summary of the petitioner's efforts to fill the vacant units. There was additional discussion on incentives, short term and long term solutions, the housing fund, and how the funds would be used. Council discussed a variety of options the city could take to help fill vacant units. It was noted that all types of housing was needed in the city. There was discussion on the original agreement which focused on workforce housing.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 5 (Ruff, Piedmont-Smith, Daily, Zulich, Asare), Nays: 4 (Flaherty, Rollo, Stosberg, Rosenbarger), Abstain: 0.

8.4. Ordinance 2025-04

To Amend Title 2 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled "Administration and Personnel" - Re: The Establishment of the Transportation Commission

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Rollo, Ruff), Abstain: 0.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to adopt Ordinance 2025-04.

Ryan Robling, Planning Services Manager, Planning department summarized the legislation, which he had presented three times already.

Piedmont-Smith moved and Daily seconded to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-04. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays, Abstain: 0. Piedmont-Smith presented the amendment.

Amendment 01 Synopsis: This amendment is sponsored by Councilmember Piedmont-Smith and aims to clarify the expectation that city staff from departments deemed necessary for decision-making to support the city's transportation and parking goals collaborate with the new Transportation Commission by attending meetings at the commission's request. This collaboration is essential to accomplish the city's goals in regard to parking policy and implementation. The amendment also removes one word in the section describing two appointments by the Common Council to the new Commission. It proposes that the word "demonstrated" before "experience using forms of travel other than personal motor vehicles" be deleted, since it is unclear how anyone would demonstrate that qualification.

Robling stated that staff supported Amendment 01.

Steve Volan, chair of the Parking Commission, was unsure if an amendment to preserve the Parking Commission would get a sponsor.

The motion to adopt Amendment 01 to Ordinance 2025-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

There was discussion on the advisory nature of the Traffic Commission (TC) and the process for traffic calming and greenways. Andrew Cibor, City Engineer, clarified the difference between the establishment of the TC and amending Title 15. Margie Rice, Corporation Counsel, referenced state code which gave the Engineer responsibility to make decisions on traffic calming measures, stop signs, and more. She reiterated that the TC would be an advisory commission to provide public input. There would also be updates to Title 15. Council discussion focused on statutory authority of commissions, council, and the executive body.

Steve Volan spoke about the cost of parking, parking data, the Parking Commission, and urged council to sponsor the amendment seeking to maintain the Parking Commission. Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke about city boards and commissions. Ash Kulak, Deputy Council Attorney, read a comment submitted via Zoom chat by Sam Dove regarding adding stop signs on the 7th Street corridor. Eric Ost urged council to postpone Ordinance 2025-04 indefinitely and referenced state code regarding the city engineer.

Lisa Lehner, Council Attorney, reiterated that the proposed changes to Title 2 and Title 15 were separate.

Council discussed three traffic studies and which would be brought to the TC. Robling said that combining the commissions into the TC would free up staff's time. There was discussion on council's role with traffic and roadway issues, as well as the statutory requirements and responsibilities of the city engineer. Ruff stated he was still unclear with the legislation, and believed it was ideal to postpone the legislation. Piedmont-Smith noted the benefits of having the TC and gave reasons in support. She did not believe that the legislation needed to be postponed due to concerns with Title 15. Rollo expressed concern with empowering a commission like the TC and believed more time was needed in order to better review state code. Flaherty discussed his time as the ex-officio member of the Parking Commission, state code, and how to address concerns. Stosberg said the Title 15 concerns were separate from Title 2 and the creation of the TC. She referenced the purpose of the TC which was not empowered to make final decisions; the TC could make recommendations, do analyses, request appropriations through the mayor and for approval by council. Ruff and Stosberg discussed the current approval process for staff-led greenways and traffic-calming projects.

The motion to adopt Ordinance 2025-04 as amended received a roll call vote of Ayes: 7, Nays: 2 (Ruff, Rollo), Abstain: 0.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [10:23pm]

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, spoke about housing incentives. Steve Volan thanked individuals who served on the Parking Commission.

10.COUNCIL SCHEDULE [10:26pm]

Stosberg reviewed the upcoming council schedule and noted that there would be a group photo of council.

11.ADJOURNMENT [10:27pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Hopi Stosberg, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above minutes summarize the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken.

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Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
Bloomington Council Chambers, City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 6:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL (*Indicates participation via Zoom) [6:31pm]

Councilmembers present:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1, Council Vice President
Dave Rollo	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Ash Kulak	Deputy Council Attorney
Taylor Brown	Assistant City Attorney
Jessica McClellan	City Controller
James Sanders	Commission on the Status of Black Males
Erin Reynolds	Commission on the Status of Children and Youth
Andrew Shannon	Community and Family Resources, Safe & Civil City Director

3. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

Stosberg discussed the historical importance of Margaret McCullough, Indiana’s first female school superintendent in Bloomington, serving schools from 1874-1889. She then summarized the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:33pm]

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to approve the minutes from January 08, 2025, January 15, 2025, February 12, 2025, April 03, 2025, and April 09, 2025. The motion was approved by voice vote.

5. REPORTS [6:35pm]

5.1. Councilmembers:

Ruff spoke about his time at the Margaret McCullough School and noted the building had been acquired by Indiana University and turned into a gallery.

Rollo announced his and Ruff’s upcoming constituent meeting. He commented on the first Earth Day and the city’s Earth Day events. He discussed the loss of wildlife around the world and how people could help.

Piedmont-Smith highlighted the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for filing a lawsuit against President Donald Trump’s agenda to allow the United States’ Department of Education’s attempts to prohibit lawful efforts to ensure that Black students were afforded equal educational opportunities.

Rosenbarger noted an upcoming expiration to a seat on the Bloomington Transit Corporation and encouraged the public to apply.

Zulich reported from the Capital Improvement Board (CIB) meeting that day where bonds were sold.

Daily spoke about social services organizations which faced a decrease in funding. She discussed All-Options and the diaper and period programs, and more.

Stosberg discussed invasive species and Monroe County Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MCIRIS), a local organization helping to remove invasive species. She noted her upcoming constituent meeting and reported from the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

5.2. Mayor and City Offices:

James Sanders gave the annual report of the Commission on the Status of Black Males. He discussed the commission's charge and focus, a recap of 2024, and 2025 goals.

Erin Reynolds-Nylund gave the annual report of the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. She gave an overview of the commission and its purpose, key achievements and impacts, challenges and resolutions, and goals for 2025.

Stosberg extended the time for reports for five minutes with no objection from the council.

Andrew Shannon, Safe & Civil City Director, Community and Family Resources department gave summary comments for both commissions.

5.3. Council Committees:

There were no council committee reports.

5.4. Public:

There was no public comment.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [7:26pm]

On behalf of Interview Committee Team C, Zulich moved and Asare seconded to recommend the reappointment of Tatiana Peters to seat C-4 on the Commission on the Status of Children and Youth. The motion was approved by voice vote.

7. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [7:27pm]

7.1. Ordinance 2025-16

To Vacate Public Parcel Re: A 20-Foot Wide Alley Segment Located in the Southern Half of the Alley Between West 10th Street and West Maker Way (The Mill, Petitioner; City of Bloomington Redevelopment Commission, Owner)

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-16 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7.2. Ordinance 2025-17

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2024-19 That Fixed the Salaries of Officers and Employees of the Police and Fire Departments for the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana for the Year 2025

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-17 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7.3. Ordinance 2025-18

An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 2024-20 That Fixed the Salaries of Appointed Officers, Non-Union, and A.F.S.C.M.E Employees for All the Departments of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana for the Year 2025

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-18 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Stosberg referred the Ordinance 2025-16, Ordinance 2025-17, and Ordinance 2025-18 for a second reading at the Regular Session scheduled for May 07, 2025, noting that the meeting would also serve as the public hearing for Ordinance 2025-16.

8. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [7:29pm]

8.1. Resolution 2025-07

To Approve an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Bloomington, Indiana and the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Resolution 2025-07 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Resolution 2025-07 be adopted.

Taylor Brown, Assistant City Attorney, presented the legislation and highlighted an auto-renewal clause. There was council discussion on state code and interlocal agreements, and a standard annual increase of 3% for Information Technology Services (ITS) fees and corresponding services. The next step for the interlocal was for it to go before the Public Transit Corporation Board.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

8.2. Resolution 2025-08

To Approve Recommendations for Distribution of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds for 2025

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Resolution 2025-08 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Resolution 2025-08 be adopted.

Matt Swinney, Program Manager and CDBG Project Manager, Housing and Neighborhood Development department, presented the legislation. He described the CDBG program and its purpose. The program was funded under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He discussed the recommended allocation of CDBG funds, eligibility, requirements, funding categories and processes, and summarized recent projects. He then presented CDBG impacts in the city. There was discussion on how to better collaborate social services funding while not violating federal regulations. There was additional discussion on the recommended allocations, projects, potential impacts resulting from changes by the federal administration, and prioritizing social services funding.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-08 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

8.3. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-04

To Transfer from the General Fund to Various Departments within the General Fund, and to the Economic Development Local Income Tax Fund, the Park & Recreation General Fund, the Parking Meter Fund, the Parking Facilities Fund, the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, the Alternative Transportation Fund, the Fleet Maintenance Fund and the Sanitation Fund

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-04 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-04 be adopted.

Jessica McClellan, Controller, presented the legislation and provided details on allocating funds to department budget's personnel line item. There was discussion on future appropriation ordinances and usage of overtime in the Sanitation department. The funds would be used exclusively for salaries and benefits. The appropriation ordinance was net neutral, did not request additional cash, and simply moved budgeted spending.

Stosberg noted that the public comment period qualified as the public hearing. There was no public comment.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 2025-04 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

8.4. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-05

To Transfer from the General Fund to Various Departments within the General Fund, and to the Economic Development Local Income Tax Fund, the Park & Recreation General Fund, the Parking Meter Fund, the Parking Facilities Fund, the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, the Alternative Transportation Fund, the Fleet Maintenance Fund and the Sanitation Fund

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-05 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion was approved by voice vote. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-05 be adopted.

McClellan presented the legislation and highlighted what the transferred funds would be used for. The Parks department was able to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds instead of the General Fund funds which could then be used for other things like maintenance and repairs. Tim Street, Director, Parks and Recreation, gave additional details on the planned maintenance and repairs.

Stosberg noted that the public comment period qualified as the public hearing. There was no public comment.

Councilmember Asare stated that during the previous fall's discussion on the General Obligation (GO) bonds, it seemed that funds for those projects were not already in the budget, but in fact, were. Stosberg agreed. The discussion could have clearer and needed improving. Flaherty clarified that the pertinent information had been included in the packet for the meeting when GO bonds were discussed the previous fall.

The motion to adopt Appropriation Ordinance 2025-05 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [8:37pm]

There was no public comment.

10. COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:38pm]

Stosberg reviewed the upcoming council schedule and recognized Deputy Attorney Ash Kulak on their last day of employment. She thanked Kulak for their hard work and contribution to the City Council. Councilmembers expressed their thanks to Kulak.

11. ADJOURMENT [8:41pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Hopi Stosberg, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above minutes summarize the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken.

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Bloomington Common Council-Regular Session Minutes
[ROOM], City Hall, 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana
Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 6:30pm

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Stosberg called the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL (*Indicates participation via Zoom) [6:30pm]

Councilmembers present:

Isak Nti Asare	At-Large
Courtney Daily	District 5, Council Parliamentarian
Matt Flaherty	At-Large
Isabel Piedmont-Smith	District 1, Council Vice President
Dave Rollo (arrived at 6:50pm)	District 4
Kate Rosenbarger (arrived at 6:36pm)	District 2
Andy Ruff	At-Large
Hopi Stosberg	District 3, Council President
Sydney Zulich	District 6

City staff, officials, and guests present:

Nicole Bolden	City Clerk
Lisa Lehner	Council Attorney
Christine Chang	Temporary Council Legal Research Specialist
Kelly Murphy	Technology Support Manager, ITS
Adam Wason	Public Works Director
Jane Kupersmith	Economic and Sustainable Development Director
Anna Killion-Hanson	Housing and Neighborhood Development Director

3. AGENDA SUMMATION [6:31pm]

Stosberg spoke about the Japanese internment camps in the United States starting in 1942 and gave a brief history. She then summarized the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [6:36pm]

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025, March 26, 2025, and May 14, 2025. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Rollo arrived at 6:50pm)

5. REPORTS [6:38pm]

5.1. Councilmembers:

Piedmont-Smith commented on President Donald Trump’s “Big Beautiful Bill” and impacts on community members. There would be food assistance cuts, slashing over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and services, and other healthcare impacts, canceling of federal support for clean energy programs, and furthering the privatization of public education through federal voucher programs. The wealthy would benefit with tax cuts. Military spending would increase and there would be a massive increase to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) budget. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated that the bill would add \$3.4 trillion to the federal deficit over ten years. Members of the Indiana General Assembly that supported the bill included Representative Erin Houchin, Senator Jim Banks, and Senator Todd Young. She urged community members to contact their representatives, and to volunteer, advocate, and donate to local organizations.

Asare spoke about Tandem, a Community Birth Center and Postpartum House, which served families in Bloomington. The house had four furnished overnight suites and day room retreats. Tandem had eight

postpartum doulas and many trained volunteers, and also distributed free maternity clothing, baby supplies, diapers, car seats, and provided education. He discussed postpartum statistics and different types of assistance for families. Tandem was facing financial strains and Asare urged residents to support the center.

Stosberg mentioned her upcoming constituent meeting. She reported on her and Piedmont-Smith's attendance to the Local Progress 2025 National Convening event in Chicago the previous weekend. She highlighted sessions on council staffing and division of workload, food security, food deserts, municipal grocery stores, and additional intervention assistance. Another session was on budgets and taxation focusing on revenue streams, state funding, and Indiana's Senate Bill 1. She reported that the Plan Commission had heard petitions for updates to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Two petitions had been forwarded to a second hearing; single room occupancy and urban agriculture. The other five were less substantive and were forwarded to council with positive recommendations.

5.2. Mayor and City Offices:

Adam Wason, Public Works Director, gave a report on progress for a citywide sidewalk plan. The vendor, ICC-IMS, was gathering data on the condition of current sidewalks, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps, and more. By the end of the year, there would be publicly accessible data sets, ratings, and visuals. There had been interdepartmental meetings regarding each one's participation in the improvements. The plan needed to address more than just sidewalks. A Pedestrian Facilities Operations Plan (PFOP) was being developed and would collaborate with the Transportation Commission with the goal of improving pedestrian safety. He gave additional details on potential projects like funding and winter weather enforcement. There was specific discussion on how the data on sidewalks was being collected, how council could support the effort, the Transportation Commission, sidewalk gaps and replacement cycles, priorities, long-term plans, and spending on pedestrian infrastructure.

Stosberg extended the time for reports until 7:30pm with no objection.

Jane Kupersmith, Director, Economic and Sustainable Development Director, presented the annual tax abatement report. She referenced a report given to council where each tax abatement was presented to council including CF-1 commitments and staff's finding of compliance or noncompliance. Council discussed payment in lieu payments, council's responsibility, and noncompliance for Union at Crescent. Kupersmith explained the process should council find Union at Crescent noncompliant.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that the Council, as the designating body, determine preliminarily that Union at Crescent has not substantially complied with its statement of benefits and that the failure to substantially comply was not caused by factors beyond the control of the property owner.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that the Council hold a public hearing on July 30, 2025, during the Council's Regular Session beginning at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers to further consider Union at Crescent's compliance with the statement of benefits provided as part of the tax abatement granted under Resolution 17-30 and Resolution 17-31; and that Council staff provide the required notice of this hearing to the property owner, listing the basis for the Council's determination: "failure to allocate at least 70% of the units to households with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income (affordable housing requirement)."

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that the Council approve the findings of compliance or substantial compliance for the remaining properties listed in the 2025 Annual Tax Abatement report as recommended by ESD with the exception of Union at Crescent.

The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Stosberg extended the time for reports until 7:45pm with no objection from the council.

Stosberg noted that the following report would be a public hearing.

Anna Killion-Hanson, Housing and Neighborhood Development Director, presented the City of Bloomington’s 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan and highlighted efforts to address housing, community development, and economic development needs. The city received an annual allocation for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Killion-Hanson provided details on the spending plan. She noted that Bloomington was the most housing cost burdened metro area in the state with high cost of living and low wages. She discussed Indiana University students, Census data, rental housing, housing instability, homelessness, Housing Choice Vouchers/Section 8 waitlist, and zoning and land use policies that limited the development of affordable housing. The highest priority need was improving access to quality, affordable housing. Zulich requested that student housing not be referred to as luxury housing because that placed all students into one category which was not accurate. Killion-Hanson said that any new housing would help with affordability. Staff did not know how many AirBnBs there were in the city. Council discussed new developments, vacant homes, collecting data on occupancy rates, and workforce housing.

Stosberg extended the time for reports until 8:00pm with no objection from the council.

Stosberg called for public comment and hearing none, ended the public hearing portion of the meeting.

5.3. Council Committees:

There were no council committee reports.

5.4. Public:

Sarah Owen, Community Engagement Coordinator, Exodus Refugee Immigration Bloomington (ERI), spoke about the organization and the impact of HR1, “Big Beautiful Bill,” on ERI’s clients including denying access to healthcare via Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Christopher Emge, Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, discussed the unhoused community and some collateral damage that occurs downtown, panhandling, public safety, and security costs.

Kevin Keough commented on vacant commercial spaces on the first floors of complexes.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS [8:03pm]

There were no appointments to boards or commissions.

7. LEGISLATION FOR FIRST READING [8:03pm]

7.1. Ordinance 2025-23

To Enact Title 10 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Wastewater”

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-23 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Clerk Nicole Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7.2. Ordinance 2025-24

To Enact Title 13 of the Bloomington Municipal Code Entitled “Stormwater”

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Ordinance 2025-24 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 8, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. (Flaherty out of the room). Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

7.3. Appropriation Ordinance 2025-07

To Transfer Appropriations in the General Fund to Various Departments and Various Funds to Align Budgets with the 2025 Salary Ordinance

Daily moved and Piedmont-Smith seconded that Appropriation Ordinance 2025-07 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Stosberg referred all of the legislation to the next regular session on July 30, 2025.

8. LEGISLATION FOR SECOND READING AND RESOLUTIONS [8:08pm]

8.1. Resolution 2025-10

To Initiate a Proposal to Amend Title 20 (Unified Development Ordinance) of the Bloomington Municipal Code Re: Preparation of a Proposal to Amend Chapter 20.04.110 (Incentives) and 20.02.040 (Planned Unit Development)

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2025-10 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-10.

Stosberg presented Resolution 2025-10 and gave reasons in support. The legislation reinitiated part of Resolution 2024-23 which passed the previous November. She said the Plan Commission needed to have held a hearing within sixty days of the passage of Resolution 2024-23, which they did, and vote too, which they did not do. The oversight was due to miscommunication regarding a working group that was not created. Therefore, the timeline timed out.

There was no public comment.

Flaherty expressed disappointment that the administration had not met the timeline.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-10 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

Piedmont-Smith passed the gavel back to Stosberg.

8.2. Resolution 2025-11

To Initiate a Prior Proposal to Amend Title 20 (Unified Development Ordinance) of the Bloomington Municipal Code by Restating Resolution 2024-25 Re: Single-Room Occupancy Residential Buildings as a Permitted Use

Daily moved and Zulich seconded that Resolution 2025-11 be introduced and read by title and synopsis only. The motion received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0. Bolden read the legislation by title and synopsis.

Daily moved and Zulich seconded to adopt Resolution 2025-11.

Piedmont-Smith presented Resolution 2025-11 and noted that the legislation was before council again because the Plan Commission had not heard the proposal within the statutorily required sixty days.

Joe Davis spoke against expanding single room occupancy.

Piedmont-Smith noted that Planning staff were consulting with the Legal department and others. There were legitimate concerns and the proposal needed to be clarified and refined. She was disappointed that the administration had failed to meet two deadlines regarding the resolutions. Rollo spoke about the need for restricting private equity firms with capital to buy up houses and take advantage of the single room occupancy allowance. Stosberg reiterated that the resolutions were a first step and did not go into detail on what the final language would be.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2025-11 received a roll call vote of Ayes: 9, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT [8:31pm]

Joe Davis commented on Seminary Park and its torn up ground caused by security patrols, and finding used syringes.

10. COUNCIL SCHEDULE [8:32pm]

Stosberg reviewed the upcoming council schedule. Piedmont-Smith noted the upcoming Public Safety Local Income Tax Committee and the Fiscal Committee meetings.

11. ADJOURMENT [8:40pm]

Stosberg adjourned the meeting.

APPROVED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

APPROVE:

ATTEST:

Hopi Stosberg, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

City Clerk Nicole Bolden

Clerk’s Note: The above minutes summarize the motions passed and issues discussed rather than providing a verbatim account of every word spoken.

Bloomington City Council meetings can be watched on the following websites:

- Community Action Television Services (CATS) – <https://catvstv.net>
- YouTube – <https://youtube.com/@citybloomington>

Background materials and packets are available at <https://bloomington.in.gov/council>



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

TO: Members of the Common Council
FROM: Justin Vasel, Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability
DATE: July 14, 2025
SUBJECT: 2024 BCOS Annual Report

Dear Councilmembers,

In accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code § 2.12.100(8)(G), I am pleased to submit the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability's 2024 Annual Report to you and the Mayor. Should the Council wish to have the Commission present our findings and priorities in person, I would be delighted to appear before you at a meeting of your convenience.

2024 was a year of rebuilding and renewal for BCOS. Despite facing operational challenges, we made significant strides in advancing sustainability initiatives across Bloomington. Our accomplishments included successfully awarding grants for innovative community projects such as waste reduction programs and urban tree planting and providing substantive input on municipal code revisions affecting sustainability policy. The Commission also expanded its collaborative approach by initiating regular work sessions, strengthening relationships with other city commissions, and establishing an ad-hoc committee to conduct a sustainability assessment.

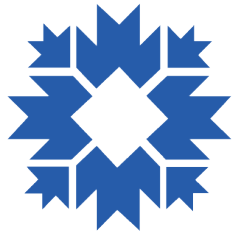
Looking ahead, BCOS is celebrating 20 years since its founding in 2005, with a renewed focus on making meaningful contributions to city policy, engaging community partners, promoting educational initiatives, and continuing to fund grassroots sustainability projects. Our strategic priorities for 2025 center on housing and urban agriculture, as well as education, outreach, and coalition building.

We recognize that sustainability presents complex challenges requiring collaborative solutions, and we look forward to our continued partnership with the Council. Please know that BCOS stands ready to serve as a resource on sustainability matters affecting our community.

Sincerely,

Justin Vasel, PhD
Chair, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

Encl: Bloomington Commission on Sustainability 2024 Annual Report



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability

2024 Annual Report

Version 2

May 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) experienced a year of rebuilding and renewal in 2024. Despite challenges with commission vacancies and meeting quorum requirements, BCOS made significant strides in advancing sustainability initiatives across Bloomington. The Commission successfully awarded grants for innovative community projects, engaged with urban agriculture and waste reduction initiatives, and provided input on municipal code revisions affecting sustainability.

BCOS also expanded its collaborative approach by initiating regular work sessions, developing stronger relationships with other city commissions, and establishing an ad-hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive sustainability assessment. Notably, the Commission passed Resolution 2024-01 to affirm and clarify its unique role within the city's governance structure.

As we look toward 2025, BCOS is positioned to build on these accomplishments with a focused approach to contribute meaningfully to city policy, engaging community partners, promoting educational initiatives, and continuing to fund grassroots sustainability projects.

INTRODUCTION

The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability serves as the city's primary advisory body for advancing the sustainable socio-environmental-economic well-being for all Bloomington residents. Established in 2005, BCOS has evolved to address the increasingly complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, social equity, and economic resilience.

The Commission's mandate, as outlined in Bloomington Municipal Code (BMC) §2.12.100, includes advising the City Administration on sustainability and resilience issues, recommending policy changes, facilitating community education, and coordinating with other governmental and non-governmental organizations. In 2024, BCOS focused on strengthening its operational foundation, fostering collaborative relationships, and supporting community-based sustainability initiatives through targeted grant programs.

This annual report documents the Commission's activities, accomplishments, and challenges during 2024, while outlining strategic priorities for the coming year. Our work reflects a holistic approach to sustainability that integrates environmental protection, social equity, and economic vitality—recognizing that true sustainability requires balance among all three domains.

COMMISSION OVERVIEW

Commission Composition and Membership

BCOS is composed of 14 members as defined in BMC §2.12.100: Five seats appointed by the Bloomington Common Council, six seats appointed by the Office of the Mayor, and three ex-officio seats held by designees of the Monroe County Commissioners, the Bloomington Common Council, and the IU Office of Sustainability. Four members are annually elected by the Commission to fill four executive offices: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Commission also has a staff liaison from the Department of Economic & Sustainable Development (Figure 1).

BCOS experienced significant membership transitions throughout 2024, which affected the Commission's ability to maintain quorum and conduct business at times. The Commission elected new leadership in May 2024, with Justin Vassel serving as Chair, Andrew Guenther as Vice Chair, and Matt Austin as Treasurer. The Secretary position remained unfilled until August when Zero Rose was elected to the role. Shawn Miya served as BCOS Staff Liaison throughout the year.

New commissioners joining BCOS in 2024 included Andrew Guenther, Jami Scholl, Zero Rose, Tara Dunderdale, Evan Nix, Hunter Hawley, and Quentin Gilly (representing IU's Office of Sustainability). The Commission bid farewell to Kate-Lyn Edwards, who announced her departure in May 2024.

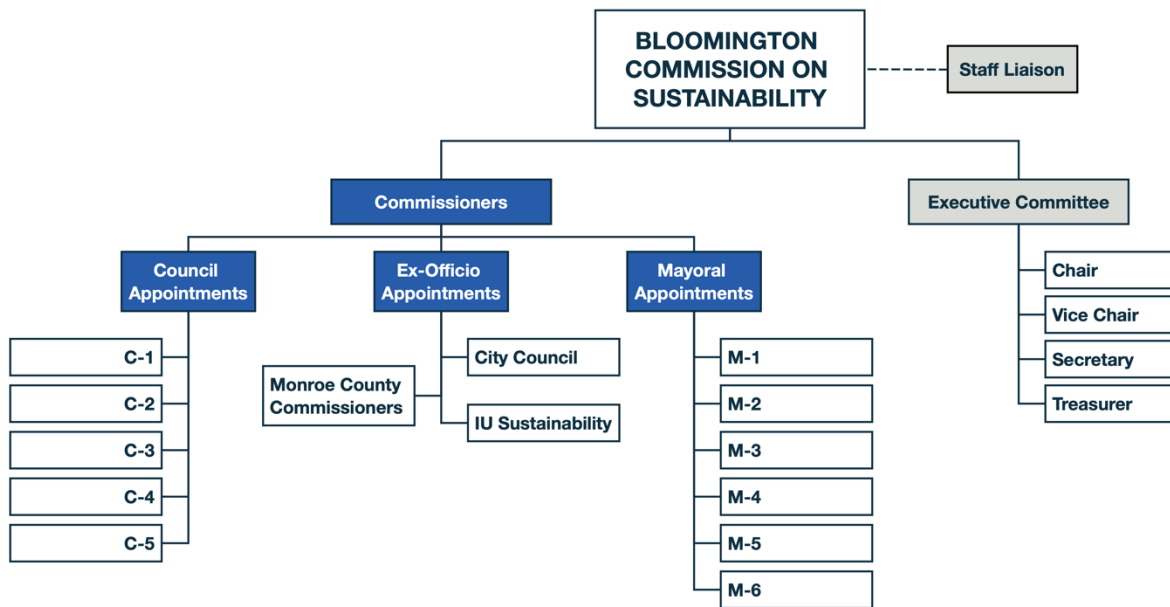


Figure 1. Structure of the Bloomington Commission on Sustainability.

Meetings and Attendance

BCOS held nine regular meetings during 2024, with scheduled meetings in April and July canceled due to anticipated lack of quorum and the State of the City event. The Commission struggled with quorum issues early in the year, particularly during the March meeting when incorrect guidance about counting ex-officio members and vacancies initially led to a misunderstanding about whether quorum had been achieved.

In September 2024, BCOS initiated a new approach to increasing productivity by introducing work sessions separate from regular business meetings. These work sessions, held at the Monroe County Public Library, provided an informal setting for commissioners to collaboratively advance projects without the time constraints of regular meetings. Two work sessions were conducted in September and proved valuable for developing grant proposals and discussing strategic initiatives.

Regular business meetings were held in the McCloskey Conference Room at City Hall, with hybrid attendance options available for commissioners unable to attend in person. The Commission's meeting minutes document a gradual improvement in attendance throughout the year, with more robust participation evident in the second half of 2024.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2024

Grants Programs and Projects

The Commission facilitated several impactful sustainability initiatives through its grant programs in partnership with the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD).

Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program

This program, established in 2023, provides \$10,000 annually to support small-scale neighborhood sustainability projects, typically limited to \$1,000 per project. In 2024, BCOS oversaw the implementation of previously approved grants and approved new initiatives.

TerraCycle 1.0. A \$1,000 grant awarded to GardenQuest in late 2023 was successfully implemented throughout 2024. The project procured specialized recycling boxes from TerraCycle

to divert hard-to-recycle materials from landfills. Data collected showed that laminated paper products constituted the highest percentage of household trash diverted, followed by food wrappers. The program trained ten neighbors and collected valuable data on household waste management practices, with participants expressing strong interest in continuing and expanding the program.

TerraCycle 2.0. Building on the success of the first phase, BCOS approved a follow-on \$1,000 grant in December 2024 to test a hybrid approach comparing time-savings versus cost-savings models. The project will focus on the most popular recycling categories from phase one and continue collecting weight and volume data to assess impact. The results of this project will provide valuable insight into the popularity, accessibility, and sustainability impact of this approach to waste management. We hope that its success will serve as a springboard for wider adoption among Bloomington communities.

New Pollinator Gardens. In November 2024, the Commission approved a \$1,000 grant proposal to purchase pre-made pollinator garden kits for installation in the Grandview Hills neighborhood. The project aims to increase native pollinator habitat and provide educational resources to residents about the importance of native plants.

Working Group Grant Program

This program provides \$10,000 annually for Commission-initiated projects. After significant effort to navigate the city's approval processes, BCOS approved two important projects in late 2024 and developed a proposal for a waste redirection effort that it hopes to pursue in 2025.

CanopyBloomington Tree Planting. The Commission approved a \$4,000 Working Group grant to support CanopyBloomington's tree planting initiative, representing one of the most substantial sustainability investments BCOS made in 2024. This project will replace 16 trees in areas of Bloomington previously identified as high-need neighborhoods where tree mortality had occurred. The Commission chose to partner with CanopyBloomington, a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding and maintaining Bloomington's urban forest, based on their demonstrated expertise in tree selection, planting, and long-term care.

The proposal, championed by Commissioner Andrew Guenther, underwent extensive development with input from multiple BCOS members. It received unanimous support after careful consideration of its alignment with the city's Climate Action Plan, which identifies urban tree canopy expansion as a key climate adaptation strategy. During the extensive discussion process, the Commission emphasized the importance of selecting native species that demonstrate resilience to changing climate conditions, supporting biodiversity while ensuring the long-term survival of the investment.

A distinguishing feature of this project is its comprehensive maintenance plan. Each planting site requires a signed letter of intent from the property owner or manager committing to tree maintenance for a minimum of three years, addressing a common shortcoming in many tree planting initiatives where insufficient aftercare leads to high mortality rates. CanopyBloomington supplements these commitments with professional oversight and technical support for tree stewards.

Through this partnership, BCOS is helping to advance multiple sustainability goals simultaneously: mitigating urban heat island effects, sequestering carbon, reducing stormwater runoff, providing habitat for native species, and enhancing neighborhood aesthetics and property values. The project also demonstrates the Commission's commitment to equitable distribution of environmental benefits by focusing planting efforts in underserved areas of the city where tree canopy is often disproportionately sparse.

Cob Bench Project. The Commission approved a \$1,000 Working Group grant to support the creation of an innovative community gathering space at Redbud Books on Kirkwood Avenue, featuring benches constructed using the ancient cob building technique. Commissioners Zero Rose and Evan Nix championed this project, drawing on their expertise in sustainable building practices

and community engagement to develop a proposal that seamlessly integrates multiple sustainability principles. The project encompasses not only the construction of cob benches—made from a mixture of clay, sand, and straw—but also the installation of an arbor, bike racks, native pollinator gardens, and edible landscaping, creating a multifunctional community hub in a high-visibility downtown location.

This initiative stands out for its strong community support, with over 20 neighbors signing letters of support and more than 30 individuals volunteering to participate in the construction process. The project exemplifies BCOS's commitment to demonstrating practical sustainability solutions that engage citizens directly in implementation. By using site-sourced clay, reclaimed limestone, and other local materials, the Cob Bench Project will serve as a living educational tool for sustainable building techniques while enhancing neighborhood connectivity and providing ecological benefits through native plantings. Commissioner Nix secured partnerships with Redbud Books, which is providing a \$200 in-kind contribution, and Blue Bee Ecological Endeavors, which will donate plants, soil, and seeds.

Bokashi Composting Initiative. The Commission's Waste Management Working Group, led by Commissioner Matt Austin, developed a comprehensive proposal for a \$5,000 project to establish a Bokashi composting training and implementation program across Bloomington. This innovative initiative emerged from extensive community needs assessment and collaboration with multiple local organizations including Garden Quest, the Lotus Festival, Purdue Extension, and the Waste Reduction District of Monroe County (WRDMC). The proposal exemplifies BCOS's commitment to addressing food waste—a significant contributor to landfill emissions and a key concern identified in the Climate Action Plan. The Commission has structured the project as a public-private partnership, successfully securing matching funds of \$5,000 from WRDMC, effectively doubling the initiative's impact and demonstrating the Commission's skill in leveraging limited resources.

The Bokashi method offers distinct advantages over traditional composting, particularly for urban settings, as it uses an anaerobic fermentation process that can safely process all food waste—including meat, dairy, and oily foods typically excluded from conventional composting. Commissioner Austin highlighted that this approach is especially valuable for apartment dwellers and those with limited outdoor space, making it an equity-focused solution that expands composting access beyond homeowners with yards. The project design incorporates both practical implementation and educational components, with plans to establish a "Compost Captains" volunteer training program modeled after successful initiatives in other communities. While final approval of this ambitious proposal remained pending at year's end due to administrative processing requirements, the groundwork laid in 2024 positions this initiative for immediate implementation in early 2025, with potential to significantly reduce landfill waste while building valuable soil resources for community gardens.

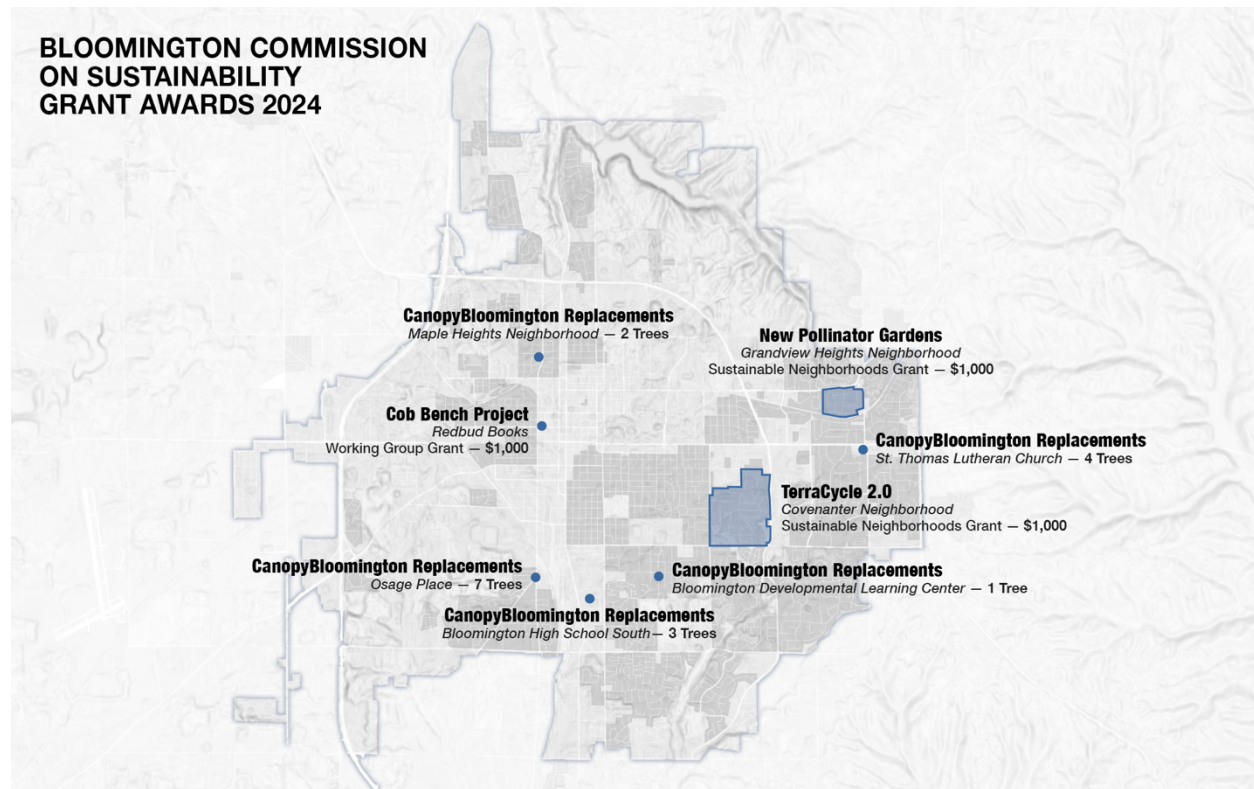


Figure 2. Geographical distribution of BCOS-approved projects funded by Sustainable Neighborhood Grants and BCOS Working Group Grants.

Policy Development and Municipal Code Engagement

BCOS actively participated in discussions about its own role within city governance and provided input on sustainability-related policies throughout 2024. The Commission engaged meaningfully with proposed changes to the Bloomington Municipal Code, particularly as they related to the Commission's purpose, structure, and responsibilities.

In the wake of the 2022 Novak Report, which recommended potentially merging BCOS with the Environmental Commission, BCOS devoted significant attention to clarifying its unique identity and value within the city's governance framework. This included detailed discussions spanning multiple meetings about the Commission's integration of environmental, social, and economic aspects of sustainability—a holistic approach distinguishing BCOS from other advisory bodies.

Resolution 2024-01. In December 2024, the Commission unanimously passed its first formal resolution of the year, expressing support for proposed changes to BMC §2.12.100 with specific recommendations to maintain the Commission's broad advisory role to the City Administration and incorporate resilience into the Commission's purview

Knowledge Building and Assessment

BCOS took significant steps to enhance its understanding of sustainability challenges and measure progress toward city climate goals.

Sustainability Assessment Ad-Hoc Committee. In September 2024, the Commission established an ad-hoc committee to conduct a comprehensive sustainability assessment. After surveying commissioners to prioritize focus areas, the committee began developing a framework to evaluate the city's progress on climate action goals, focusing initially on energy and the built environment, green space and ecosystems, and local food and agriculture.

Educational Presentations. The Commission hosted informative presentations throughout the year, including a detailed overview of the Summit Development project on Bloomington's southwest side, examining its sustainability features and potential impacts on housing, transportation, and natural resources. The Commission intends to continue seeking informational presentations to maintain awareness of current topics that touch on sustainability in Bloomington.

Engagement and Collaboration

BCOS strengthened relationships with other commissions and community organizations.

Cross-Commission Coordination. Commissioners began attending meetings of the Environmental Commission, Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, and other city boards to identify opportunities for collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts.

Strategic Engagement Planning. The Commission developed a formal engagement strategy with three primary objectives: identifying related organizations, maintaining awareness of their activities, and pursuing collaboration opportunities.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

BCOS managed two primary funding streams in 2024, both provided through the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development (ESD):

Sustainable Neighborhoods Grant Program: \$10,000 annual allocation

- Funds committed in 2024: \$2,000 (TerraCycle 2.0; New Pollinator Gardens)
- Projects completed using prior year funding: \$1,000 (TerraCycle 1.0)

Working Group Grant Program: \$10,000 annual allocation

- Funds committed in 2024: \$5,000 (CanopyBloomington—\$4,000; Cob Bench—\$1,000)
- Additional proposals pending: \$5,000 (Bokashi Composting Initiative)

Both grant programs operate on a calendar year basis, with funds that must be encumbered by December 31. The Commission worked diligently in the latter part of 2024 to identify and approve high-impact projects to utilize available funding before year-end.

In November 2024, ESD announced that beginning in January 2025, Sustainable Neighborhoods Grants would be administered directly by ESD without requiring BCOS approval. While this change streamlines the process for applicants, the Commission expressed interest in maintaining an advisory role to ensure alignment with broader sustainability priorities.

CHALLENGES IN 2024

Commission Functionality & Productivity

The Commission faced several operational challenges that affected its efficiency and effectiveness:

Leadership Transition. BCOS operated without permanent leadership for the first four months of 2024, with Commissioner David Maenner serving as Acting Chair until elections were held in May. While Acting Chair Maenner performed commendably, this transition period limited the Commission's ability to advance strategic initiatives and maintain momentum.

Document Management. The Commission and City staff worked to find solutions for document storage and collaboration that would meet both the practical needs of commissioners and the City's legal and policy requirements, though this remained a challenging balance to achieve. This

stemmed primarily from concerns about Indiana's Open Door Law (ODL), which regulates how public bodies conduct business and maintain transparency. The City Attorney's office expressed concern that commissioners collaboratively editing documents outside of public meetings could potentially constitute a "meeting" under the ODL if a quorum of members were involved in the editing process, even asynchronously.

Despite extensive discussions with City staff and legal counsel throughout the year, a satisfactory resolution remained elusive. The Commission explored various approaches to balance efficient document collaboration with strict ODL compliance, including the creation of read-only document repositories and establishing clear protocols for sequential document editing. However, in December, the City Attorney ultimately recommended all document management occur exclusively through OnBoard rather than through shared drives created by commissioners. This solution prioritized legal compliance but created practical difficulties for collaborative work on complex documents like the Sustainability Assessment Report. This tension between administrative efficiency and legal compliance represents an ongoing challenge for the Commission's productivity that will require continued attention in 2025.

Meeting Format Limitations. Standard monthly business meetings proved insufficient for the Commission's workload, leading to truncated discussions and deferred agenda items. In response, BCOS introduced work sessions in September to provide dedicated time for more in-depth collaboration and project development.

Procedural Guidance. The Commission and staff navigated complex procedural questions throughout the year, including during the March meeting when differing interpretations of quorum calculation requirements led to uncertainty about whether official business could be conducted.

Grant Process Complexity

Administrative Hurdles. Both grant programs administered by BCOS involved multi-step approval processes requiring coordination between the Commission, ESD staff, and city financial departments. The time required to move projects from concept to implementation created challenges for timely project execution.

Funding Authority Limitations. Questions arose about the Commission's authority to seek external funding or engage in fundraising activities, with differing interpretations of the Commission's mandate creating uncertainty about potential revenue sources beyond city allocations.

Loss of Grant Oversight. In November, ESD announced that Sustainable Neighborhoods Grants would no longer require BCOS approval beginning in January 2025. While intended to streamline the process, this change raised concerns about the Commission's diminishing role in community sustainability initiatives and reduced opportunities for commissioner expertise to inform project selection.

Commission Continuity Issues

Membership Gaps. Throughout 2024, BCOS operated with vacant positions and experienced turnover in membership, creating knowledge gaps and increased workload for remaining commissioners.

Quorum Challenges. Meeting quorum requirements proved challenging at times due to the combination of vacant positions and unavoidable commissioner absences, leading to the rescheduling of planned meetings in April and July. When meetings proceeded with minimal attendance, the Commission's ability to take formal actions was limited.

Lessons Learned

The challenges faced in 2024 yielded valuable insights for future Commission operations:

Flexible Meeting Structures. The introduction of work sessions demonstrated the value of supplementing formal business meetings with more collaborative formats, allowing for deeper engagement on complex topics without the constraints of formal meeting procedures.

Strategic Focus. The experience with the Sustainability Assessment Ad-Hoc Committee highlighted the importance of prioritizing and narrowing focus areas to achieve meaningful outcomes within the Commission's limited capacity.

Advance Planning. The year-end rush to approve grant projects underscored the need for earlier identification and development of potential initiatives to allow adequate time for administrative processing.

PLAN FOR 2025

Building on the foundation established in 2024, BCOS has identified two strategic priority areas for 2025. Rather than selecting specific projects, the Commission has chosen broader thematic domains to provide strategic direction while maintaining flexibility for commissioners to pursue various initiatives within these areas.

Priority 1: Housing and Urban Agriculture

The Commission has identified housing and zoning policy as a critical area where sustainability principles can significantly impact Bloomington's development trajectory. This priority encompasses several interrelated components:

Housing Affordability and Accessibility

The Commission will engage with the social equity components of housing policy by exploring how green building practices can improve both sustainability and affordability, investigating alternative housing models such as tiny home zoning, and addressing the balance between rental properties and owner-occupied homes. The Commission will also monitor major developments like Summit District for adherence to sustainability principles.

Food Resilience & Urban Agriculture

BCOS recognizes that access to abundant, affordable, and nutritious food is critically important to the long-term economic vitality and health of our community. As climate change continues to impose increasing strain on global, national, and local food supply chains, any short-term crisis threatens to amplify those strains in unpredictable and potentially disastrous ways. While emergency management is not the purview of this Commission, vulnerability to long-term impacts from short-lived events is a sustainability issue. BCOS will investigate the current state of food security and resiliency in Bloomington through this lens to identify and recommend policy changes that help mitigate these risks through increased urban agriculture or other means.

Priority 2: Education, Outreach, and Coalition Building

Recognizing the limitations of its meeting schedule and procedural constraints, BCOS will leverage its position to amplify existing community initiatives through strategic education and partnership efforts:

Resource Amplification

The Commission will connect community members with available sustainability resources by promoting city grant programs, educating the public about BCOS Working Group Grants, and creating informative materials about sustainability initiatives and best practices.

Coalition Building

BCOS will strengthen connections with organizations already engaged in sustainability work, focusing on partnerships rather than duplicating efforts. This will include inviting organizations to present to the Commission and identifying partnership opportunities with other city commissions and boards.

Public Engagement

The Commission will increase direct interaction with community members by maintaining a presence at events such as Earth Day, developing interactive educational activities, creating surveys to gather community input on sustainability priorities, hosting practical educational events such as “fix-it clinics”, and encouraging public attendance and comment at BCOS meetings.

Implementation Strategy

To ensure effective progress on these priorities, BCOS will:

- initiate Working Group Grant processes early in the year to avoid end-of-year rushes and allow for thorough project development;
- focus attention on time-bound opportunities such as providing input on the UDO amendment process;
- track the city's implementation of the Climate Action Plan through the Sustainability Assessment Report;
- monitor budget allocations related to sustainability initiatives to ensure alignment between financial commitments and stated priorities; and
- maintain flexibility to address emerging opportunities and challenges in Bloomington's sustainability landscape.

This strategic approach will allow BCOS to maximize its impact despite limited resources, focusing on areas where the Commission can provide the greatest value to Bloomington's sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The Bloomington Commission on Sustainability demonstrated resilience and determination in 2024, overcoming operational challenges to advance important sustainability initiatives. By successfully funding innovative community projects, providing thoughtful policy input, and laying the groundwork for the first Commission-authored sustainability assessment in many years, BCOS has reinforced its value to the city's governance structure.

As Bloomington faces the intensifying challenges of climate change, resource constraints, and equity concerns, BCOS's integrative approach to sustainability—bridging environmental, social, and economic considerations—provides an essential perspective for city decision-making. The Commission enters 2025 with renewed focus, improved processes, and a commitment to measurable progress toward Bloomington's sustainability goals.

The Commission extends its appreciation to the Department of Economic and Sustainable Development staff, particularly Shawn Miya and Jolie Perry, for their dedicated support throughout the year. We also thank the community partners who collaborated on grant-funded projects and the city leadership for their continued commitment to a sustainable future for all Bloomington residents.

Finally, the Commission thanks the residents of Bloomington who attend our meetings and make their voices heard on sustainability issues that are important to them. The Commission also deeply appreciates the staff of Community Access Television Services (CATS) for recording our meetings and making them accessible for all Bloomingtonians.

APPENDIX A: 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Meeting Type
January 9, 2024	Regular Meeting
February 13, 2024	Regular Meeting
March 12, 2024	Regular Meeting (No quorum for official business)
April 9, 2024	Meeting Canceled
May 22, 2024	Regular Meeting
June 11, 2024	Regular Meeting
July 9, 2024	Meeting Canceled
August 13, 2024	Regular Meeting
September 3, 2024	Work Session
September 10, 2024	Regular Meeting
September 24, 2024	Work Session
October 8, 2024	Regular Meeting
November 12, 2024	Regular Meeting
December 10, 2024	Regular Meeting

APPENDIX B: 2024 GRANT SUMMARY

Grant	Recipient/Project	Amount	Status
Sustainable Neighborhoods	GardenQuest—TerraCycle 1.0 (2023)	\$1,000	Completed
Sustainable Neighborhoods	GardenQuest—TerraCycle 2.0	\$1,000	Approved
Sustainable Neighborhoods	New Pollinator Gardens	\$1,000	Approved
Working Group	CanopyBloomington	\$4,000	Approved
Working Group	Cob Bench Project	\$1,000	Approved
Working Group	Bokashi Composting (2025)	\$5,000	Pending

APPENDIX C: COMMISSIONER ROSTER (AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024)

Seat	Appointing Authority	Commissioner	Dates of Service
C-1	City Council	Alex Hakes Tara Dunderdale	03/29/2023 – 06/05/2024 06/19/2024 – Present
C-2	City Council	Justin Vasel	03/29/2023 – Present
C-3	City Council	Matt Austin	02/17/2022 – Present
C-4	City Council	Heidi Dowding Zero Rose	06/21/2023 – 01/31/2024 06/19/2025 – Present
C-5	City Council	Jon Eldon	12/07/2022 – Present
Ex-Council	City Council	Dave Rollo	01/10/2024 – Present
IU	Indiana University Sustainability	Jessica Davis Quentin Gilly	11/16/2022 – 11/20/2024 11/21/2024 – Present
M-1	Mayor	Nejla Routsong Hunter Hawley	02/01/2022 – 01/31/2024 08/06/2024 – Present
M-2	Mayor	Emma Ferguson Jami Scholl	02/01/2022 – 01/31/2024 02/01/2024 – Present
M-3	Mayor	Hannah Gregory Evan Nix	02/13/2023 – 06/30/2024 08/06/2024 – Present
M-4	Mayor	KateLyn Edwards	02/01/2023 – 08/14/2024
M-5	Mayor	Dennis Vera	06/15/2023 – 08/13/2024
M-6	Mayor	David Maenner	01/10/2022 – Present
MCC	Monroe County Commissioners	Nolan Hendon Andrew Guenther	10/15/2020 – 04/30/2024 05/01/2024 – Present



CLERK NICOLE BOLDEN

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

401 N Morton St, Ste. 110
Bloomington, IN 47404

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

812.349.3408
clerk@bloomington.in.gov

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Clerk Nicole Bolden

Date: 22 August 2025

Re: Interview Committee Recommendations for Board and Commissions

The Common Council interview committees have made recommendations for appointment to the following boards and commissions:

Interview Committee Team C Recommendations:

- For the Commission on Hispanic and Latiné Affairs - to appoint Maria Puscama to seat C-4.

Contact

Clerk Nicole Bolden, 812-349-3408, clerk@bloomington.in.gov

Jennifer Crossley, Deputy Clerk of Communications and Outreach, 812-349-3403,
jennifer.crossley@bloomington.in.gov

ORDINANCE 2025-33

TO ESTABLISH THE FIBER CONNECTIVITY FUND FOR DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVES

- WHEREAS; the City of Bloomington is committed to expanding broadband access and ensuring digital opportunity for all residents, particularly low-income households; and
- WHEREAS; the City has entered into a Master Development Agreement with Meridiam and Hoosier Networks, LLC, now mStreet Fiber Bloomington, LLC, effective date June 22, 2022, to encourage the construction, maintenance, and operation of an open-access fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network to serve the community; and
- WHEREAS; according to Section 7.6.2 of the Master Development Agreement with Hoosier Networks, LLC, the City has committed \$1,000,000 to establish a non-reverting fund, called the Digital Opportunity Fund, to support broadband accessibility and affordability initiatives for income-qualifying residents; and
- WHEREAS; the Fund will be used to cover no more than 50% of open-access fiber installation costs (up to \$350 per unit) for income-qualifying residents and support other digital opportunity activities if funds remain after the initial subsidy period; and
- WHEREAS; in conjunction with this investment, the Developer has agreed to provide an annual digital infrastructure dividend of \$85,000, increasing to \$100,000 upon renewal, provide \$200,000 in funding for additional Engineering Department staff capacity, cover at least 50% of drop costs while City funds are available, and 100% of drop costs thereafter, provide free broadband installation and low-cost high-speed internet (250 Mbps at \$30/month or lower) to income-qualifying households, and connect all Bloomington Housing Authority properties to the fiber network; and
- WHEREAS; a “Digital Opportunity Fund” already exists in the city funds list supporting the City’s own Digital Opportunity Specialist position, and to keep revenues and expenditures for a specific purpose separate for accounting and transparency purposes, the city wishes to name the fund established to cover 50% of open-access fiber installation costs the “Fiber Connectivity Fund”; and
- WHEREAS; the City recognizes that ensuring affordable fiber broadband access aligns with its goals of fostering economic development, community vitality, and digital opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIBER CONNECTIVITY FUND

There is hereby created a Fiber Connectivity Fund, a dedicated financial account within the City’s budget, to be used solely for the purpose of covering fifty percent (50%) of Drop costs to Income-qualifying resident units, up to \$350 per unit. If, at the end of the period described in Section 7.3.2(h) of the Master Development Agreement, City funds remain in the Fiber Connectivity Fund, such funds shall be used for any activities supporting digital opportunity for City residents.

Section 2. ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS

The Controller’s Office shall oversee the administration and distribution of the Fiber Connectivity Fund. The Information & Technology Services (ITS) Department and relevant City departments shall develop policies and procedures to ensure the effective implementation of digital opportunity initiatives. Funds shall be allocated in accordance with the Master Development Agreement and applicable federal, state, and local laws.

Section 3. REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The City shall work with the Developer to ensure compliance with digital opportunity commitments, including service availability, affordability, and infrastructure expansion.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the City of Bloomington Common Council.

Hopi Stosberg, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this
_____ day of _____, 2025.

SIGNED AND APPROVED by me this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Kerry Thomson, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

Ordinance 2025-33 establishes the Fiber Connectivity Fund to support broadband access for income-qualifying residents, ensuring affordable high-speed internet, and promoting digital opportunity while also securing annual infrastructure contributions from the Developer.



City of Bloomington Indiana

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Office of the Common Council | (812) 349-3409 | Fax: (812) 349-3570 | email: council@bloomington.in.gov

MEMO FROM CONTROLLER MCCLELLAN:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Jessica McClellan, Controller, Rick Dietz, ITS Director

Date: 8/21/2025

Re: Ordinance 2025-33 – To create the Fiber Connectivity Fund

Introduction

This memo provides an overview of Appropriation Ordinance 2025-33, which establishes the Fiber Connectivity Fund to support broadband accessibility initiatives for income-qualifying residents. This initiative is part of the 2022 Master Development Agreement (MDA) between the City of Bloomington and Hoosier Networks, LLC, (now mStreet Fiber Indiana), which aims to construct, maintain, and operate an open access fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network in Bloomington.

This funding will be used to cover 50% of broadband installation ("drop") costs for income-qualifying residents and to support other fiber connectivity initiatives. ITS has already received invoices for 50% of drop costs that should be paid from this fund.

The establishment of this fund is authorized under Indiana Code, which grants municipalities the power to create dedicated funds for public infrastructure and community development initiatives.

Summary of the Master Development Agreement (MDA)

The Master Development Agreement, executed on June 22, 2022, between the City of Bloomington and Hoosier Networks, LLC, outlines the terms under which the Developer will deploy a citywide open access FTTP network. This agreement was created to expand broadband access, promote fiber connectivity, and ensure long-term infrastructure sustainability.

Key provisions of the MDA include:

- The Developer will fund, construct, and maintain the FTTP network.
- The network will be operated as an Open-Access Network, allowing multiple ISPs to provide service after an initial exclusivity period.
- The Developer is required to offer 1 Gbps service with network neutrality protections.
- The City will contribute \$1,000,000 to support fiber connections to the mStreet network to ensure affordable broadband access for income-qualifying residents.
- This fund will allow the City to fulfill its financial commitments under the MDA and further its goals of economic development and bridging the digital divide.

Relevant City Commitments Under the MDA

Pursuant to the agreement, the City of Bloomington has committed to the following:

1. Creation of the Fiber Connectivity Fund

- The City has committed \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to establish a Fiber Connectivity Fund, which will be used exclusively to support fiber connectivity initiatives.
- Subsidizing Broadband Installation Costs for Income-Qualifying Residents



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2. The City will cover 50% of the broadband drop costs (up to \$350 per unit) for income-qualifying households.
 - The City has already received invoices for these costs to be paid using this fund.

Relevant Developer Commitments Under the MDA

Under the Master Development Agreement, Hoosier Networks, LLC, has committed to:

1. Covering Drop Costs for Low-Income Residents
 - While City funds are available, the Developer will cover at least 50% of the drop costs for income-qualifying residents.
 - Once City funds are exhausted, the Developer has committed to covering 100% of drop costs.

Legal Authority for Establishing the Fiber Connectivity Fund

The creation of the Fiber Connectivity Fund and the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund is authorized under Indiana Code, which grants municipalities the ability to establish funds for specific purposes, including broadband infrastructure and economic development initiatives:

- IC 36-1-3-6 (Home Rule Authority) – Allows municipalities to create financial mechanisms to support local projects.
- IC 36-4-6-18 (Appropriation of Funds) – Provides the Common Council the authority to allocate funds for public improvements and infrastructure.
- IC 5-22-6-1 (Contracts for Public Services) – Permits the City to enter into agreements with private entities for public service improvements.
- This resolution complies with all relevant state laws and ensures transparency and fiscal responsibility in allocating funds for broadband expansion.

Conclusion

The establishment of the Fiber Connectivity Fund is a critical step in ensuring that all Bloomington residents have access to affordable, high-speed broadband. This appropriation fulfills the City's commitments under the Master Development Agreement and allows us to cover 50% of broadband installation costs for income-qualifying residents.

ORDINANCE 2025-34

**TO ESTABLISH A FUND FOR THE PROCEEDS OF THE SURETY BOND SECURED FOR
WORK ON FIBER OPTICS NETWORK
FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA**

- WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington (City) entered a public-private partnership with Meridiam Infrastructure North America Corporation (Meridiam) to build an open-access fiber network in Bloomington; and
- WHEREAS, Meridiam created an entity called Hoosier Networks LLC (Hoosier Networks), to construct, install and manage their networks in Indiana; and
- WHEREAS, on June 22, 2022, the City entered into a Master Development Agreement with Hoosier Networks (now d/b/a mStreet Fiber Indiana) to construct, maintain and operate an open-access Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) network within the City that would provide substantial community coverage including to low income residences; and
- WHEREAS, Hoosier Networks identified Atlantic Engineering Group, LLC, later known as Trueline (AEG) as the contractor to perform the infrastructure work; and
- WHEREAS, in accordance with Bloomington Municipal Code 12.08.060, AEG was required to file a bond payable to the City with the City Engineer prior to receiving a permit to work in the right of way; and
- WHEREAS, AEG field Bond Number 1160465, in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000), issued by Lexon Insurance Company of Louisville, Kentucky, with the City Engineer and was conditioned to hold the city harmless from any loss, cost or damage by reason of such proposed work, and that the same shall be done in all respects in conformity with the requirements of all laws regulating the same; and
- WHEREAS, during the course of AEG operating in the right of way, the City of Bloomington Engineering Department issued notice of violations (“NOVs”) against AEG for noncompliance with Title 12 of the Bloomington Municipal Code which remained unanswered and unresolved by AEG; and
- WHEREAS, AEG eventually left the job site and has since commenced a corporate dissolution, leaving the NOVs unresolved which necessitated the City’s decision to call Bond Number 1160465; and
- WHEREAS, the City has received payment from Bond Number 1160465 in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) due to AEG’s failure to resolve issues noted in the NOVs and/or to pay fines associated with NOVs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. The City Controller (“Controller”) shall create a specific, non-reverting Fund to hold the entire surety payment from which distributions shall be made to cover any loss, cost or damages caused by AEG while operating in the right of way, pursuant to Bloomington Municipal Code 12.08.060, or for any other lawful purpose. The Council authorizes the Controller to take all necessary steps to effectuate this Section and to create the Fund.

SECTION 2. The City Controller will return to Council to appropriate said funds to specific City departments as needed for recovery of any loss, cost or damage caused by AEG’s work in the right of way in keeping with Bloomington Municipal Code 12.08.060, or for any other lawful purpose.

SECTION 3. If any sections, sentence or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington and approval of the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

HOPI STOSBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This ordinance establishes a dedicated non-reverting fund to hold the One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) received when the surety bond payment on Bond Number 1160465 was called due to failure by Meridiam Infrastructure North America Corporation’s subcontractor (AEG) to properly install fiber within the City limits. Damages were incurred by the City and certain Notice of Violations were issued by the City of Bloomington Engineering Department against AEG, who was working on Meridiam’s behalf, for violations of Title 12 of the Bloomington Municipal Code regarding work performed in the right of way. Appropriations of the funds will be requested by the City of Bloomington Controller to the City Council at a later date.



City of Bloomington Indiana

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MEMO FROM CONTROLLER MCCLELLAN:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Jessica McClellan, Controller

Date: 8/25/2025

Re: Ordinance 2025-34 – Establishing a Surety Bond Proceeds Fund

Introduction

Ordinance 2025-34 creates a special non-reverting fund to hold the \$1,000,000 surety bond payment the City received after Atlantic Engineering Group, later, known as Trueline (AEG), failed to properly complete and comply with requirements while installing conduit, fiber optic cable, and associated infrastructure in the City's right of way.

Background

The City partnered with Meridiam Infrastructure North America and Hoosier Networks (now mStreet Fiber Indiana) to build a citywide, open-access fiber network. Meridiam subcontracted construction work to AEG/Trueline.

Under Bloomington Municipal Code 12.08.060, contractors working in the public right of way must file a bond with the City Engineer to ensure compliance with local standards and to protect the City from damages. AEG filed Bond No. 1160465 in the amount of \$1,000,000.

During construction, the City's Engineering Department issued multiple Notices of Violation (NOVs) against AEG for noncompliance with Title 12. AEG left the project site without resolving these violations and subsequently began corporate dissolution. The City then called the bond, and Lexon Insurance Company paid the full \$1,000,000 to the City.

Authorized Uses of the Fund

The fund may only be used for recovery of any loss, cost or damage caused by AEG's work in the right of way in keeping with Bloomington Municipal Code 12.08.060, or for any other lawful purpose. The Controller and affected departments will return to Council for appropriation of funds, ensuring transparency and Council approval before any expenditures are made.

Conclusion

This ordinance ensures that the bond payment is managed responsibly and transparently. Establishing the fund creates a clear mechanism for addressing the impacts of the fiber project contractor default.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13

TO ESTABLISH THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PILOT FUND OF
THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA

- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-1-1-3 *et. seq.* confers upon units of government within the State of Indiana such powers as necessary or desirable to conduct the affairs of local government; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code § 36-4-6-18 authorizes the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana to pass such ordinances, orders, resolutions and motions as may be necessary and proper for the governmental unit to fulfill and satisfy the responsibilities and duties of said governmental unit; and
- WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana has heretofore adopted Ordinances No. 2025-21 and 2025-22, authorizing payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreements with Cambridge Square of Bloomington, LP and Henderson Court Housing, LP, which payments are to be deposited into a non-reverting fund to be known as the Affordable Housing Fund #2537; and
- WHEREAS, on November 3, 2022, the Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 22-29, authorizing a PILOT agreement with Country View Housing LP for Country View Apartments, which payments shall be deposited into the non-reverting fund to be known as the Affordable Housing Fund #2537; and
- WHEREAS, on June 30, 2016, the Common Council adopted Ordinance No. 16-18, authorizing a payment in lieu of taxes agreement with EV Bloomington Limited Partnership for the development at Evergreen Village, which payments shall also be deposited into the non-reverting fund to be known as the Affordable Housing Fund #2537; and
- WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5 *et. seq.*, and Indiana Code § 36-1-8-14.3(h), the City of Bloomington is required to establish an Affordable Housing Funding in which payments in lieu of taxes (“PILOT”) and other sources of funds identified under Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5 shall be deposited; and
- WHEREAS, consistent with state law, expenditures from the Affordable Housing Fund #2537 may be made for the development, construction, and operation of affordable housing, and to provide financial assistance to lower income families in need of affordable housing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION 1. Establishment of Fund. There is hereby established a fund to be known as the Affordable Housing Fund #2537 in the Office of the Controller.

SECTION 2. Source of Revenues. The Fund shall consist of monies received from various affordable housing PILOT agreements throughout the City of Bloomington, as well as the following sources of funds as allowed by Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5(b):

- (1) payments in lieu of taxes deposited in the fund under IC 36-1-8-14.3;
- (2) gifts and grants to the fund;
- (3) investment income earned on the fund’s assets;
- (4) money deposited in the fund under IC 36-2-7-10; and
- (5) other funds from sources approved by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority.

SECTION 3. Purpose of Fund. The City shall appropriate and use the Fund only for the following limited purposes as permitted by Indiana Code §5-20-5-15.5(c):

- (1) providing financial assistance to those individuals and families whose income is at or below eighty percent (80%) of the county’s median income for individuals and families, respectively, to enable those individuals and families to purchase or lease residential units within the county;

- (2) paying expenses of administering the fund;
- (3) making grants, loans, and loan guarantees for the development rehabilitation, or financing of affordable housing for individuals and families whose income is at or below eighty percent (80%) of the county's median income for individuals and families; and
- (4) providing technical assistance to nonprofit developers of affordable housing.

SECTION 4. Notification of the Authority. The Controller shall, on behalf of the Common Council, notify Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority of creation of the fund, as required by state law.

SECTION 5. Severability. If any section, sentence, or provision of this Resolution, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council and approval by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon the _____ day of _____, 2025.

HOPI STOSBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this ____ day of _____, 2025.

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this ____ day of _____, 2025.

KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution creates the required Affordable Housing Fund to receive payments in lieu of taxes from approved PILOT projects and other allowable proceeds for the purpose of supporting the affordable housing-related activities listed in Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5.



City of Bloomington Indiana

City Hall | 401 N. Morton St. | Post Office Box 100 | Bloomington, Indiana 47402

Office of the Common Council | (812) 349-3409 | Fax: (812) 349-3570 | email: council@bloomington.in.gov

MEMO FROM CONTROLLER MCCLELLAN:

To: Members of the Common Council

From: Jessica McClellan, Controller

Date: 8/21/2025

Re: Resolution 2025-13 – Establishing the Affordable Housing PILOT Fund #2537

Introduction

The attached resolution establishes the City of Bloomington's Affordable Housing PILOT Fund (#2537). This action is required under Indiana law to ensure that Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) made by certain affordable housing developments are deposited in a separate, non-reverting fund. The fund will serve as a dedicated resource to support the City's affordable housing initiatives.

Background

Indiana Code § 36-1-8-14.3 authorizes local governments to enter into PILOT agreements with property owners of low-income housing developments that qualify for property tax exemption under IC 6-1.1-10-16.7. Subsection (h) of this statute requires that all PILOT revenues be deposited into a dedicated Affordable Housing Fund established pursuant to Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5

Consistent with this requirement, the proposed resolution formally creates Fund #2537 within the Office of the Controller. This ensures compliance with state law and establishes the framework for transparent tracking of revenues and expenditures related to affordable housing PILOT agreements.

Authorized Uses of the Fund

Indiana Code § 5-20-5-15.5 provides that revenues deposited into the Affordable Housing Fund may be used only for limited purposes, including:

- Providing financial assistance to individuals and families with incomes at or below 80% of county median income to help purchase or lease housing.
- Paying expenses related to administration of the fund.
- Making grants, loans, and loan guarantees for the development, rehabilitation, or financing of affordable housing projects.
- Offering technical assistance to nonprofit affordable housing developers.

These provisions ensure that PILOT revenues are reinvested directly into affordable housing efforts that expand access and improve opportunities for lower-income residents.



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Existing PILOT Agreements in Bloomington

The City of Bloomington has already entered into several PILOT agreements to support affordable housing development. Revenues from these projects will be deposited into the new Affordable Housing Fund (#2537):

- **Evergreen Village (2016, Ord. 16-18):** Agreement with EV Bloomington Limited Partnership.
- **Country View Apartments (2022, Ord. 22-29):** Agreement with Country View Housing LP.
- **Cambridge Square (2025, Ord. 2025-21):** Agreement with Cambridge Square of Bloomington, LP.
- **Henderson Court (2025, Ord. 2025-22):** Agreement with Henderson Court Housing, LP.

Conclusion

Approval of this resolution will bring the City into compliance with state law, provide fiscal transparency, and ensure that PILOT revenues are used exclusively for their intended purpose.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-14
A RESOLUTION of the Common Council of Bloomington, Indiana
Designating Bloomington as a BEE CITY USA® affiliate.

WHEREAS, the mission of BEE CITY USA is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators, responsible for the reproduction of almost 90% of the world's flowering plant species, by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free to nearly free of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the more than 430 species of native bees in Indiana, along with introduced honey bees, residents have very diverse dietary choices rich in fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, bees and other pollinators have experienced population declines due to a combination of habitat loss, poor nutrition, pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides), parasites, diseases, and climate change; and

WHEREAS, pollinator-friendly communities can benefit local and regional economies through healthier ecosystems, increased vegetable and fruit crop yields, and increased demand for pollinator-friendly plant materials from local growers; and

WHEREAS, characteristics of an ideal pollinator-friendly habitat include:

(A) It is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season to provide diverse and abundant nectar and pollen, since many wild pollinators prefer or depend on the native plants with which they co-adapted;

(B) It is free to nearly free of pesticides, as many pesticides can harm pollinators and/or their habitat;

(C) It comprises undisturbed spaces (leaf and brush piles, unmown fields or field margins, fallen trees and other dead wood) for nesting and overwintering; and

(D) It provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is already used by the Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department, is a long-term approach to maintaining healthy landscapes and facilities that minimizes risks to people and the environment by: identifying and removing the causes of pest problems rather than only attacking the symptoms (the pests); employing pests' natural enemies along with cultural, mechanical, and physical controls when prevention is not enough; and using pesticides only when no other method is feasible or effective; and

WHEREAS, supporting pollinators fosters broad-based community engagement in environmental awareness and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan includes Goal 3.4 "Increase the areas of native shrubs, trees, and herbaceous plants to increase ecosystem services associated with green infrastructure, including improved soil, air, and water quality and increased carrying capacity of pollinators, birds, and other wildlife" as well as Policy 3.4.1: "Create a vegetated-habitat connectivity plan" and Policy 3.4.2: "Eliminate, to the greatest extent feasible, invasive plant and animal species." This goal and these policies support habitats for pollinators such as bees in Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, the City's Climate Action Plan includes Goal G-2 "Increase quantity and quality of climate adaptive native habitats," Strategy G-2A "Create and expand native habitat policies and infrastructure" and Strategy G-2B "Increase the use of native species and pollinator restoration areas." This goal and these strategies support habitats for pollinators such as bees in Bloomington; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bloomington has long been committed to planting pollinator friendly and native plants in its parks and public greenspaces. The City conducts regular weed wrangles (targeting invasives) and native plantings with volunteers, encourages and supports neighborhood pollinator gardens, and partners with a range of local organizations to run annual native plant sales (MC-IRIS), collect and distribute native seeds (Project Wingspan), and improve the urban tree cover (Canopy Bloomington), all of which benefit pollinator species; and

WHEREAS, affiliating with Bee City USA may result in cost savings for the Parks and Recreation Department by providing a variety of in-kind resources and support, including a welcome package with educational books, a habitat sign, and outreach materials; ongoing access to training,

webinars, digital publications, and an online affiliate portal offering event planning, habitat creation, and pesticide reduction guidance; promotional opportunities through Bee City USA's communication channels; a custom logo and signage artwork; inclusion on a national map and directory; and direct access to Xerces Society staff for one-on-one technical support; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Environmental Commission contributes to city-wide education focused on pollinators and native plantings at its annual Bugfest, Earth Day events, Ecoheroes contest for students, and habitat connectivity plan; and

WHEREAS, Indiana University Bloomington, encompassing nearly 2,000 acres, was recently designated a Bee Campus USA and will serve as a key community partner by promoting pollinator habitat conservation, reducing pesticide use, and advancing education, research, and outreach efforts that support pollinators and their ecosystems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

Section 1: The City will submit this resolution to the BEE CITY USA program for certification as an official Bee City. The City of Bloomington supports and encourages healthy pollinator habitat creation and enhancement and aims to enhance understanding among local government staff and the public about the vital role that pollinators play and what all residents can do to sustain them.

Section 2: The Bloomington Environmental Commission is hereby designated as the BEE CITY USA sponsor and will be responsible for forming a BEE CITY USA Committee. The Urban Greenspace Manager within the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department is designated as the BEE CITY USA liaison. Facilitation of Bloomington's BEE CITY USA program is assigned to the Environmental Commission.

Section 3: The Parks and Recreation Department in coordination with the Environmental Commission is authorized to and shall pursue the following actions on behalf of the City of Bloomington:

- a. **Celebration:** Host at least one educational event or pollinator habitat planting or restoration each year to showcase Bloomington's commitment to raising awareness of pollinator conservation and expanding pollinator health and habitat.
- b. **Publicity & Information:** Install and maintain at least one authorized BEE CITY USA street sign in a prominent location, and create and maintain a webpage on the Parks and Recreation Department's website which includes a copy of this resolution and links to the national BEE CITY USA website; contact information for the BEE CITY USA liaison; reports of the pollinator-friendly activities the community has accomplished in the previous year(s); and a recommended native plant species list and integrated pest management plan (explained below).
- c. **Habitat:** Develop and implement a program to create or expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, which includes, but is not limited to, identifying and inventorying Bloomington's real property that can be enhanced with pollinator-friendly plantings; creating a recommended locally native plant list to include wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees and a list of local suppliers for those species; and tracking (by square footage and/or acreage) annual area of pollinator habitat created or enhanced.
- d. **Pollinator-Friendly Pest Management:** Create and adopt a City-wide integrated pest management (IPM) plan modeled on Parks & Recreation's IPM plan, designed to prevent pest problems, reduce pesticide use, and expand the use of non-chemical pest management methods.
- e. **Policy & Plans:** Establish, through the Bloomington Common Council, a policy in the Bloomington Comprehensive Plan to acknowledge and commit to the BEE CITY USA designation and review the Comprehensive Plan and other relevant documents to consider improvements to pest management policies and practices as they relate to pollinator conservation, identify appropriate locations for pollinator-friendly plantings, and consider other appropriate measures.
- f. **Renewal:** After completing the first calendar year as a BEE CITY USA affiliate, each February, if funding is available, apply for renewal of Bloomington's BEE CITY USA designation following the format provided by BEE CITY USA, including a report of the previous year's BEE CITY USA activities, and paying the renewal fee based on Bloomington's population.

- g. **Bee City USA Committee:** Establish a Bee City USA Committee composed of representatives from the Environmental Commission and community partners, including but not limited to local environmental organizations, Indiana University Bloomington, and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. This committee shall collaborate to advance Bloomington’s Bee City USA goals through pollinator education, habitat restoration, outreach events, and promotion of native plant initiatives.
- h. **Annual Report:** Prepare and submit an annual Bee City USA report, compiled by the Bee City USA Committee in coordination with the Environmental Commission, detailing progress on pollinator conservation efforts, habitat creation or enhancement, community engagement activities, and any updates to recommended native plant and pest management resources. This report shall be made publicly available on the Park and Recreation Department’s website.

Section 4: Severability. If any section, sentence or provision of this resolution, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions or applications of this resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this resolution are declared to be severable.

ADOPTED by the Common Council of the Bloomington, IN, this ____ day of _____, 20__.

HOPI STOSBERG, President
Bloomington Common Council

ATTEST:

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

NICOLE BOLDEN, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2025.

KERRY THOMSON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS
The Bloomington Environmental Commission, with the support of the Parks and Recreation Department, is proposing that Bloomington be certified as an official Bee City USA city.

Memo

To: Councilwoman Isabel Piedmont Smith

From: Shannon Gayk on behalf of the Biodiversity Working Group of the Bloomington Environmental Commission

Date: August 21, 2025

Subject: Bee City, USA Certification Initiative

Dear Councilwoman Piedmont Smith,

We are writing to explain why the Bloomington Environmental Commission is actively pursuing the Bee City, USA certification and how this aligns with our city's long commitment to environmental sustainability and community health.

1. Supporting Pollinator Health:

The primary goal of Bee City, USA certification is to recognize and promote cities that are dedicated to creating healthy habitats for pollinators, particularly bees, butterflies, and other essential insects. By achieving this certification, Bloomington will take an important step toward supporting the vital role that pollinators play in our ecosystem and food production systems.

2. Enhancing Biodiversity:

Bloomington's commitment to sustainability and ecological stewardship is exemplified by the initiative to create more green spaces and promote biodiversity. As part of the certification, the Environmental Commission highlights these efforts to cultivate pollinator habitats, provide native plants, and reduce pesticide use. These actions help maintain and restore biodiversity across our community, which is crucial for ensuring resilient and thriving ecosystems.

3. Community Engagement and Education:

Bee City, USA certification will also serve as an opportunity to engage and educate Bloomington residents about the importance of pollinators. Through this initiative, we will host events and community activities to raise awareness about pollinator conservation. This aligns with our broader goal of fostering a culture of environmental stewardship in our city, where residents, schools, and local organizations can all contribute to the protection of pollinators.

4. National Recognition:

Achieving Bee City, USA certification would also place Bloomington among the growing number of cities nationwide committed to sustainable and pollinator-friendly practices.

This recognition would highlight our city's dedication to environmental preservation, helping to further position Bloomington as a leader in sustainability efforts.

Fiscal Impact

Certifying Bloomington as a Bee City would involve an annual fee of \$400, based on population, to be covered by the Environmental Commission's budget with possible assistance from Parks and Recreation if needed. This modest cost is offset by potential savings and benefits, including free access to outreach materials, regular online workshops and trainings available to staff and commissioners, and direct support from Xerces Society experts in pollinator conservation and pesticide reduction. These resources provide ongoing professional development, reduce the need for external consulting, and strengthen the city's capacity to advance pollinator-friendly practices.

We believe that pursuing this certification is a strategic and impactful step toward enhancing Bloomington's environmental reputation while creating tangible benefits for our residents, our wildlife, and our economy.

Thank you for your continued support of the Bloomington Environmental Commission's initiatives.

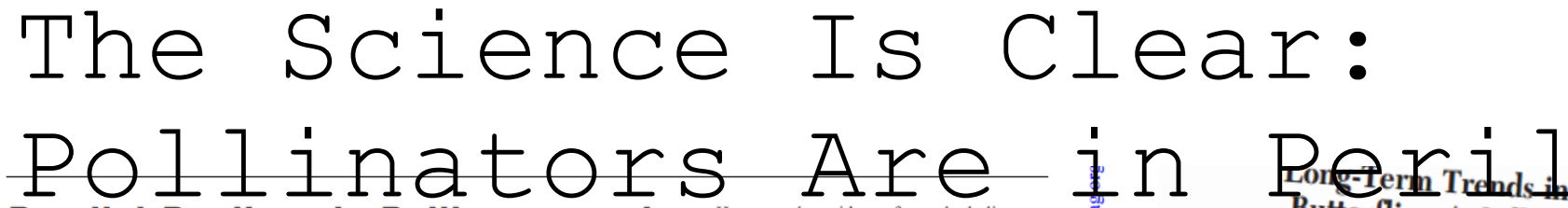
Sincerely,
Shannon Gayk

For the Bloomington Environmental Commission

BEE CITY USA®

Resolution submitted by the Bloomington
Environmental Commission in partnership with the
Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department





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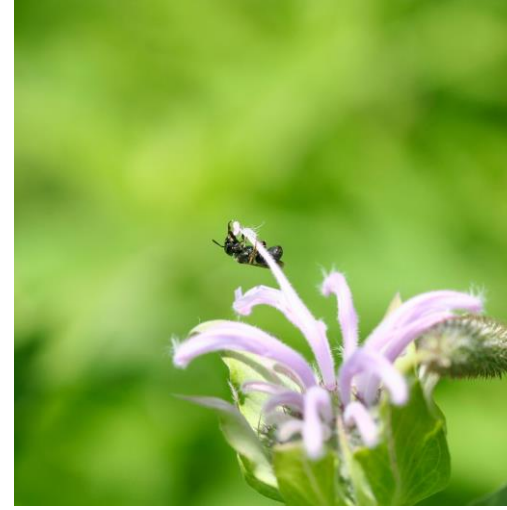
Drivers of Pollinator Decline



Habitat loss
and
degradation



Pesticide
use



Diseases and
pathogens



Climate
change



Rationale

- Help to ensure the survival of vital species crucial to our planet's functioning ecosystems
- Certification recognizes and celebrates our city's ongoing work on cultivating pollinator-friendly habitats and removing invasive plants
- Joins Bloomington's other existing certifications (Bird Town; Tree City),
 - ...and partnerships: Project Wingspan and MC-IRIS,
 - ...contributes to habitat conservation plan and map,
 - ...IU was certified as a Bee Campus in Spring 2025.
- Will be one of the first Indiana Cities with Bee City certification (joining Columbus and Avon)



Requirements and Responsibilities

- Future Digital home:
<https://bloomington.in.gov/parks>
- Parks Dept. Lead: Joanna Sparks (Urban Greenspace Manager)

Annual Requirements:

- Host pollinator events and outreach activities
- Install a sign (provided by Bee City USA), which will be maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department
- Annual report to Xerces submitted by Parks Department



Fiscal Impact

Annual Fee of \$400 (based on city population); to be paid from the Environmental Commission's budget, with assistance, if needed, from the Parks and Recreation Dept.

Potential Cost Savings

- Access to materials for outreach
- Regular online workshops and trainings that will be made accessible to staff and commissioners
- Access to Xerces Society pollinator conservation and pesticide reduction staff. Affiliates are welcome to contact the Xerces Society for one-on-one support



Questions?