

# **Environmental Commission Meeting**

## **Meeting Minutes for Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 6:00pm**

This meeting was held in the Hooker Room (Suite 245, City Hall, 401 N. Morton St).

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00pm.

Commission members present in person: Carrie Albright, Heidi Brown, Matt Caldie, Adam Fudickar, Shannon Gayk, Mitchell Owens, Karl Gaisser, Justin Meschter

Commission members present over Zoom: None

Commission members absent: Adam Martinez

City staff and elected officials present: Rachael Johnson

Were members of the public present: No

### **Roll Call**

In-Person: Carrie Albright, Heidi Brown, Matt Caldie, Adam Fudickar, Shannon Gayk, Mitchell Owens, Karl Gaisser, Justin Meschter

### **Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes**

- Brown made a motion for the approval of the agenda. Gayk seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 8:0.
- Caldie made a motion to approve the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes. Brown seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 8:0.

### **Public Comment**

- No public comment

### **New Business**

- Working Group Reorganization Discussion
  - Discussion led by Matt Caldie
    - Caldie brought up that, due to open door laws, working groups make it difficult to conduct any Environmental Commission business. Since our working groups typically contain 2-3 members, that means that any two members can make a quorum that needs to be officially noticed, which makes it burdensome to get any work done. Caldie proposes eliminating all working groups except for ECPC.
    - Albright comments that originally working groups were created to make it easier to get work done, enabling members to focus on specific issues. She brings up a concern about how members will organize. Caldie responds that this will be with informal gatherings

with less than EC quorum. Additional logistical concerns were brought up by Adam Fudickar and discussed by the group.

- Tree Commission Appointment
  - Discussion led by Carrie Albright
  - Application for Karl Gaisser
    - Caldie made a motion to appoint Karl Gaisser to the Tree Commission. Owens seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 7:0 (Karl Gaisser abstained)

## Old Business

- Handbook Discussion
  - Discussion led by Rachael Johnson and Matt Caldie.
    - Rachael Johnson clarified that all public positions and communications from the EC to Common Council, boards and Commissions, and external sources would have to be approved by the Office of the Mayor. This includes ECPC memos. ECPC business would have to adopt an earlier timeline for the approval process. Commission members had further discussion about this policy. The communication from legal is that conservatively the EC should undergo approval for all communications. The packet deadline would not change. It is unclear what feedback the commission would receive if approval is not granted. There is some disappointment expressed by some members of the commission over this new policy. There is further discussion about how this policy will impact the Environmental Commission, and a desire to understand more information about this policy. Caldie expresses for the record that he is disappointed in the inconsistent information received from the legal department on our handbook.
  - Amend the agenda to add dissolution of working groups. Caldie made a motion to amend the agenda. Gaisser seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 8:0.
  - Dissolve working groups with the exception of the Environmental Commission Plan Committee (ECPC). Caldie made a motion to dissolve working groups. Meschter seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 8:0.
- Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience - Capstone Update
  - Discussion led by Rachael Johnson
    - Rachael Johnson requested attendance information from members so that it may be properly noticed if a quorum is met. Since Matt Caldie is the only one attending, no notice will be sent.
- Working Group Updates
  - Biodiversity Working Group
    - Discussion led by Matt Caldie
      - Did not meet in the last month, but the Habitat Connectivity Plan did receive attention during the Master Gardener Fair.
  - Eco-Heroes Working Group



- Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (BCOSR)
  - Discussion led by Matt Caldie
    - Last month, BCOSR discussed tabling at the Earth Day event planned by the city. They elected new officers, and also adopted a resolution against Flock cameras. They advanced to second reading a resolution about pedestrianization of Kirkwood as well as a resolution to restrict glyphosate use.
    - This month, the meeting was entirely about the glyphosate resolution. A representative from both Parks and MC-IRIS were in attendance to answer questions about the city's use of glyphosate. The resolution was postponed for a potential amendment. Karl Gaisser mentions the possibility that the Environmental Commission could address this topic. The Environmental Commission discusses this, along with the benefits and detriments of glyphosate generally.
- Monroe County - Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)
  - There is no update to report.
- Clean Community Program
  - Discussion led by Mitchell Owens
    - There is no update to report. An explanation of this program was explained to new commission members.
- Staff Reports
  - Discussion led by Rachael Johnson
  - Caldie made a motion to post Celebrate Earth Day with the IU Cinema announcement on Facebook. Gayk seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 8:0.

### **Commissioner Announcements**

- Carrie Albright requested agenda items for the May meeting.
- Carrie Albright highlighted the annual report.
- Carrie Albright encouraged to start thinking about officer elections.
- Matt Caldie is not interested in being an officer next cycle.
- Shannon Gayk shared an event regarding forest ecology.
- Mitchell Owens shared information on the BioBlitz event.
- Justin Meschter shared information about the IU Eskenazi Museum on ecosystems.
- Heidi Brown shared about prenatal yoga in May.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Rachael Johnson highlighted upcoming events that the Environmental Commission is planning to be involved in.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:44pm.