

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:01 pm
McCloskey Conference Room – City hall

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Vassel called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
2. **Roll Call:**

Members

Commissioner	Presence	Notes
Tara Dunderdale	Present	
Justin Vassel	Present	
Matt Austin	Present	
Christopher Miles	Present	
Zach Ammerman	Present	
Quentin Gilly	Virtual	<i>Joined in person at 6:18 pm</i>
Alex Jorck	Present	
Maria Aarstad	Present	
Chenghuai Xu	Not Present	
Diana Ogrodowski	Virtual	<i>Commissioner Ogrodowski left the meeting at some point before adjournment</i>
Ross Carlson	Present	
—	Vacant	
—	Vacant	
Dave Rollo (<i>Council Ex Officio</i>)	Virtual	

City Staff Present: Shawn Miya and Jolie Perry

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3. **Approval of Agenda**

ACTION: Chairperson Vasel moved to move the staff liaison report to after reports from commissioners and move the resolutions for second reading to before the resolutions for first reading, and to move Resolution 2026-04 before Resolution 2026-03. Commissioner Ammerman seconded. Motion Passed with a Roll Call vote of 11-0-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes: March 10, 2026**

ACTION: Commissioner Ammerman moved to approve, Commissioner Austin seconded. Motion moved with a roll call vote of 11-0-0

5. **Public Comment**

- A. Public Comment from Ellee Spier** - regarding a neighborhood grant. She received a 1099-D but did not receive income from the grant just for supply. Shared that the process for neighborhood grants is really difficult and organizations are giving up before completing applications.

6. **Reports from Commissioners****A. Chair's Report** — Justin Vasel

- a. No changes to seats, new slate of officers elected in March.
- b. O'Neill School capstone project on sustainable energy utilities - Tuesday April 28, 2026 at 5:30-6:30 pm in Council Chambers
- c. Resolution 2026-02 Automated License Plate Reader Technology transmitted to all parties listed except county Sheriff - Chairperson Vasel could not find contact information for that office.
 - i. Common Council Resolution 2026-04 asked for a written information packet which might be on the April 22, 2026, meeting but the agenda has not yet been released.
- d. Chairperson Vasel asked for a volunteer to write draft legislative language for the chicken flock resolution (add number) - Commissioner Ammerman volunteered, Commissioner Dunderdale offered to share resources for the municipal code.
- e. Strategic planning and the annual report are both in process. Upcoming work in developing a commissioners handbook and onboarding materials. We are in need of a bylaws update as municipal code governing BCOSR has changed.
- f. Relevant to BCOSR mission and interest are the Hopewell South PUD.
- g. Chairperson Vasel shared a link to the Mayor's state of the city.
- h. Bloomington transit is considering merging some lines and increasing micro transit.

B. General Reminders:

- a. Earth Day - we will have a table. Commissioner Dunderdale thanked city staff Jolie Perry for her support in getting materials. Commissioner Dunderdale confirmed she will be there in the morning and Commissioner Ammerman will get the supplies at the end of the day.

C. Waste Management Working Group Matt Austin

- a. There is a grant available - open to both residents and organizations in Monroe County - up to \$5,000. Deadline is May 15.
- b. Local company is working on 3D printing homes.

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D. Council Ex-Officio Dave Rollo -

- a. Deliberation session tomorrow April 15, 6:30-9:30, the topic is Hopewell PUD discussion. The petitioner is the RDC. Joint session with RDC with a presentation from the consultant. Information on the council website for meeting announcements and packets.
- b. Councilmember Rollo gave a presentation to the common council on generative AI several 3 years ago and offered to give a presentation to BCOS on the topic.
- c. Reasonable conditions for Hopewell relate to streetscape, transportation, sidewalk, and affordability of the units.
 - i. Commissioner Ammerman asked if Council hired an attorney to address the dispute with the administration over the reasonable conditions. The attorney affirmed the council's right to bring reasonable conditions.

7. Staff liaison report

- A.** Earth Day will be April 18, 2026 12-3:30.
- B.** Canopy Bloomington installed trees as part of a cool corridor grant along Miller Drive and ESD installed a bus shelter.
- C.** Bloomington Energy Works is coming to a close, the projects included in the proposal value approximately \$61 million. Donovan energy is still completing some energy audits, including MCCSC BHSS. Volunteers have knocked on close to 6500 doors.
- D.** Commissioner Jorck asked about an update on the BEW final report at the end of the project.
- E.** Commissioner Ammerman asked about the status of the city's climate change greenhouse gas inventory. Staff Liaison Shawn Miya indicated that it was in progress and mostly complete, but needed to be made accessible. ClimateNav will be giving a presentation on the inventory to the City Council once it's finalized.

8. Resolutions for Second Reading and Discussion

- A. Resolution 2026-04: Against The Use of Glyphosate in Bloomington's Public Spaces and Environmental Practices**

Presenter: Matt Austin

Subject Matter Experts: Ellen Jacquart (President, MC-IRIS); Mary Welz (Natural Resources Manager, Bloomington Department of Parks and Recreation)

Action Item: Adoption of the resolution

Note: Commissioner Ogrodowski left the meeting at some point during discussion.

- a. Chairperson Vasel provided a procedural update on the process.
- b. Commissioner Ammerman briefly noted for the record that his husband works for Parks and Rec and one part of his job includes applying glyphosate. He stated that he saw no way to financially benefit from the resolution and so did not intend to recuse himself, but would do so if any Commissioners objected. No one did.
- c. Subject Matter experts joined.

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- i. **Ellen Jacquart** (President, MC-IRIS) Former botanist at the Nature Conservancy and President of Monroe County-IRIS, works in partnership with Bloomington Parks and Recreation.
- ii. **Mary Welz** (Natural Resources Manager, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department)-
- iii. Commissioner Jorck asked for examples of what types of situations the city uses glyphosate.
 1. *Welz specified she can only speak for Parks and Rec and Natural Resource Management within Operations. Using glyphosate for not selective control - over half of the use is for cut stump applications on woody vegetation. Low volume high concentration, stumps are cut, pesticide is applied with a dye and there are signs added and it is posted on the website. Foliar application of bush honeysuckle, low concentration, high volume. Also used for surface restoration.*
- iv. Commissioner Ammerman asked Mart Welz what specifically would change in her day-to-day work if there was a city ban on glyphosate with an exception for aggressive invasive plants.
 1. *Welz: There would be no change for her work with invasive plants but there might be impacts beyond her jurisdiction. Jacquart: shared an issue that there could be slip and fall accidents in the city. Commissioner Jorck asked if our city does this type of application on sidewalks, experts did not know.*
- v. Commissioner Miles asked for the definition of foliar spraying for the record.
 1. *Welz: About half of the city's use of this is the woody stem application.*
- vi. Commissioner Miles asked about the use of the foliar method for habitat restoration.
- vii. Commissioner Aarsta asked questions about the IPM annual review process.
 1. *Welz has only been with the department for one year but has been reviewing in advance of an update. Asked if there have been questions from the public in the past year. Not in the past year but it may have happened in the past.*
- viii. There have not been any public records requests for glyphosate in the past year.
- ix. Commissioner Dunderdale asked about dye usage and signage and communication of the volume of any pesticides by the city.
- x. Commissioner Austin asked about executive order from the Trump Administration protecting the national supply of glyphosate for national defense purposes, compelling Monsanto to continue producing it
 1. *Jacquart: Glyphosate is the most studied herbicide in the world.*
- xi. Commissioner Gilly asked about knock-on effects of imbalancing microbiomes with use of herbicides.
- xii. Commissioner Carlson asked for clarification about the application and what other departments might be using and for what.
- xiii. Councilmember Rollo asked about the 2015 report that said 16 gallons of glyphosate by the city - 7 of which for natural resource management.

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- xiv. Chairperson Vasel asked the experts to speak to the invasive plant issue in Bloomington and for parks to talk about the impact on the Natural Resources office.
 - 1. *It is comparable to other urban areas. We are seeing a lot of progress. Parks Natural Resources would be impacted significantly by the limitation of this tool.*
 - xv. Commissioner Jorck asked about training and feedback for city staff applying pesticides.
 - 1. *City staff are not required by law to be certified but are. Contractors are required to be certified pesticide applicators. There are regular staff retraining.*
 - xvi. Commissioner Miles asked about the impact of limiting how much or how glyphosate is applied would it make a difference operationally. Is there an impact on fauna of the application of glyphosate?
 - d. **Commissioner Jorck moved to consider for adoption**, seconded by Commissioner Miles.
 - e. **Commissioner Dunderdale moved to postpone Resolution 2026-04 to the May meeting**. Seconded by Commissioner Carlson.
 - f. **Commissioner Jorck moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes**. Seconded by Commissioner Gilly seconded. Passed by roll-call-vote of 10-0-0.
 - g. **Motion to postpone to May regular meeting**.
 - i. Commissioner Ammerman noted that the commission meets only once per month but has increasingly ambitious agendas, which he said was a good thing that we should encourage, but that overly strict, to-the-minute adherence to meeting end times hinders our ability to get that agenda accomplished. He asked for generally more flexibility on meeting end times, and made the case for voting on the glyphosate issue that night so as not to allow the issue to dominate more than one meeting.
 - h. **Motion to postpone passed by roll call vote 7-1-2**, Ammerman against, Austin and Vasel abstaining.
9. **Motion to adjourn from Chairperson Vasel**. Commissioner Dunderdale seconded. Motion passed by roll call vote of 9-1-0, Ammerman against.

Adjourned at 7:42 pm. Our next meeting is April 28 (special meeting).