

Environmental Commission Meeting

Memorandum for Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00pm

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:01pm.

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

Commission members present over Zoom: Carrie Albright

Commission members absent: None

City staff and elected officials present: Rachael Johnson, Enedina Kassamannian

Were members of the public present: Yes

Roll Call

In-Person: Heidi Brown, Matt Caldie, Adam Fudickar, Shannon Gayk, Adam Martinez, Mitchell Owens (tardy), Karl Gaisser, Justin Meschter

Virtual: Carrie Albright (tardy)

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

- Gayk made a motion to approve the agenda. Martinez seconded (7-0)
- Martinez made a motion vote to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes. Brown seconded. (8-0)

Public Comments

- None

Reports

- During the introduction of Commissioner Reports experienced technical issues resulting in a meeting recess.
 - Gaisser made a motion to recess until 6:30pm. Martinez seconded. (9-0)
 - Gaisser made a motion to resume the meeting at 6:27pm. Martinez seconded. (9-0)
- Commissioner Reports
 - Mitchell Owens provided updates on resources and state programs.
 - Mitchell provided links to a map of every water-related GIS overlay IDEM has access to and an IDEM tool to alert residents of short-term air quality issues.

- Matt Caldie provided an update on Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (BCOSR) capstone meeting as well as regular BCOS meeting.
 - BCOSR is also working on ways to address light pollution. Some EC members are considering collaborating with them.
- Karl Gaisser provided an update on the Tree Commission meeting.
 - Seven trees will be impacted by a Kirkwood resurfacing. IU's landscape architect has retired but will remain on the Tree Commission.
- Staff Reports
 - Enedina Kassamannian provided an update on how the Legal Department will work with the Environmental Commission and she also updated the Commission on quorum.
 - Matt asked whether quorum was based on the total number of commission seats or the filled seats. The legal department investigated. They confirmed that quorum is determined by the total number of seats and in a hybrid meeting 50% of filled seats must be present in person. Karl asked that the references used by legal be forwarded to the commission.
 - Carrie asked for clarification on the standard quorum vs hybrid quorum and what determines a "hybrid" meeting.
 - Adam F. mentioned some confusion around the EC's handbook language regarding mayoral approval of external communications. There was an email sent to the commission by the Deputy Mayor in regards to the issue. It seems a couple commissioners missed the email.
 - Rachael Johnson provided an update that there will be training for board and commission members provided in June. More information to come.

Public Comments

- Caldie made a motion to re-introduce public comment due to earlier technical issues. Gayk seconded. (9-0)
- No public comment.

Old Business

- Environmental Commission Handbook Amendments
 - There are two proposed amendments, one of which was commissioner-requested.
 - Regarding the external communications amendment, Shannon mentioned potentially removing the proposed addition. Matt and Carrie suggested that the proposed addition may not be necessary, but could be helpful to

new members. Shannon worries it could limit the commission's ability to communicate in the future.

- Owens made a motion to approve the proposed handbook amendments. Martinez seconded. (7-1-1)
- 2026 Eco-Heroes
 - Discussion on Eco-Heroes images

New Business

- Annual Report Discussion
 - Carrie Albright led discussion to provide a report to the Common Council.
- 2026 Priority Discussion
 - Carrie Albright led discussion on priorities for the remainder of 2026.
- Social Media Posts Discussion
 - Carrie Albright led discussion on social media posts.
 - Carrie sought to clarify the process of posting on the commission's social media accounts. Anything the commission would like posted must be sent to Rachel. Carrie asked if posts must be voted on by the commission. Rachel is unsure but will look into it. Carrie suggested the commission vote on posts until further clarified. They must be submitted 10 days before the relevant meeting.
 - Karl asked about posting to sites other than just Facebook. There are no plans for EC accounts on other platforms, but commissioners can suggest posts for other existing city accounts.
- Officer Election Discussion
 - Carrie Albright led discussion on officer elections.
 - Carrie encouraged commissioners to ask questions to officers and consider nominating themselves or others. There were questions about the time commitment for the Secretary and Vice Chair/Treasurer roles.

Upcoming Meeting

- June 11, 2026 at 6:00pm in the Hooker Conference Room at Bloomington City Hall

Commissioner Announcements

- Caldie made a motion to add Commissioner Announcements to the agenda and future agendas. Martinez seconded (9-0)
- Mitchell Owens provided an update on September 26, 2026 for Bug Fest. BioBlitz is June 20, 2026.
- Carrie Albright shared an update on Bee City bioblitz.
- Matt Caldie shared a historic article finding.

Adjournment

Caldie called for adjournment at approximately 7:34pm. Martinez seconded.