Environmental Commission Meeting

Memorandum for Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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 6:00 PM.

Commission members present in person: Heidi Brown, Matt Caldie, Adam Martinez, Mitchell Owens (tardy), Karl Gaisser

Commission members present over Zoom: None

Commission members absent: Carrie Abright, Justin Meschter

City staff and elected officials present: Rachael Johnson, Enedina Kassamanian, Lynn Coyne, Hopi Stosberg

Were members of the public present: Yes

Roll Call

In-Person: Heidi Brown, Matt Caldie, Adam Martinez, Mitchell Owens (tardy), Karl Gaisser

Approval of Agenda and Approval of Memoranda/Minutes

- Caldie made a motion for the approval of the agenda. Martinez seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 4:0
    - September 17, 2026 Agenda Link[1]
- Caldie made a motion to approve the July 17, 2026 meeting minutes. Martinez seconded. Motion passes by roll call - 4:0.
    - July 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes Link[2]

Public Comment

Reports

- Commissioner Reports
    - Walk-in Items
    - Matt updated the EC on the most recent Bloomington Commission on Sustainability and Resilience (BCOSR) meeting.
    - Heidi attended a tour of Bloomington's water treatment plant.
- Staff Reports

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[1] September 17, 2026 Environmental Commission Agenda Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iRqVLE7mwpJQzfOHVHO25gnNcpCi3qByBJy8lIOJUq0/edit?usp=sharing

[2] July 17, 2026 Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ufa8PcEnoqkFWAHiWD9belNI32OXa5cts3u43kbPjdE/edit?usp=sharing

- Planning & Transportation Department Reports
  - Environmental Resources Advisory Council Seat
    - EC has the power to appoint a member to ERAC. They meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in the evening. They work with park commissioners. Rachael asked for input about the process.
  - Website Materials and Resources
    - Non-accessible materials have been removed from the website but are still available for commissioners.
    - Adam asked about potentially creating different forms of documents to hand out physically compared to what is hosted on the website.
  - Board and Commission Member Training - September 30, 2026 5:30-7pm in Council Chambers
    - Registration Link[3]
- Legal Department Reports
  - Enedina updated the commission that quorum will be based on appointed commissioners, not all seats.
  - Karl asked for clarification on how this determination was made.

New Business

- Social Media
  - Bee City Committee Updates: September Events, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) BioBlitz*
    - NRPA BioBlitz Link[4]
    - Bee Campus-City Final Film Flyer Link[5]
  - Caldie made a motion for approval of the social media postings for the Bee City Committee Updates: September Events, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) BioBlitz. Owens seconded. Motion passed by roll call - 5:0.
- Discussion of Proposed Reduction of Environmental Commission Seats
  - Caldie made a motion to suspend the rules to allow the public to speak. Martinez seconded. Motion passed by roll call - 5:0.
  - Common Council is considering reducing the number of commission seats on the EC.

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[3] Board and Commission Member Registration Link: https://forms.gle/GEphW89Dpa4Ab3Tf7

[4] NRPA BioBlitz Link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lnktMP8tnsK9e2bpJS22EChFjneawBhy_dyDfsvpVVI/edit?usp=sharing

[5] Bee Campus-City Final Film Flyer Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tgHJwVaEF0dafVBRJArUfrnnbdAC6-JI/view?usp=drive_link

    - Matt moved to suspend the rules to allow public comment. Adam seconded.
    - Council member Hopi Stosberg who is proposing the legislation commented on Zoom.
    - Matt is concerned that reduced seats may become an issue if interest increases.
    - Adam asked if the removed seats would belong to council or mayoral appointments.
    - Hopi clarified that currently, 2 eliminated would be mayoral appointments and 1 would be council.
    - Karl asked if Hopi would consider reducing the seats to 10 rather than 9.
    - Hopi clarified the proposal came from the Committee on Council Processes, not her specifically.
    - Owen asked if this was an issue for other boards and commissions as well, or only the EC.
    - Hopi said the EC was the most notable, but other boards and commissions have had less severe vacancy issues.
    - Karl brought up that the EC does a lot of community outreach and a reduction of commissioners could make it difficult for the commission to handle them. He reiterated a statement from Council Member Rollo that the environment is a very broad topic and it can be helpful to have a large number of members who are experts in different areas.
    - Matt brought up that the EC has had more than 9 members for most of his time on it.
    - Justin Vasel from the public looked into the EC's vacancy data. He stated that, for the past 10 years, the commission has averaged 10.2 commissioners appointed. He proposed increasing public awareness of the commission as an alternative to reducing the number of seats.
    - Karl echoed the idea of increasing recruitment efforts.
    - Heidi encouraged commissioners to think of potential recruitment methods, such as social media posts.
- Bug Fest (Carrie Albright)
    - Bug Bingo Link[6]

[6] Bug Bingo Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IEwx5_WByAz_6kmKYukZz6hmN0pQXKde/view?usp=drive_link

Old Business

- Update Regarding Bloomington Commission on Sustainability/Environmental Commission Special Session
- Update Regarding Monroe Water Treatment Plant Tour

Commissioner Announcements

- Owen updated the EC on the Clean Community Program. Bloomington has achieved silver status.
- Matt mentioned his appreciation of late-blooming native plants.
- Adam mentioned the Bloomington Bike Party which is hosted monthly at Building Trades Park.

Upcoming Meeting

- October 15, 2026, 6:00pm, Hooker Conference Room at Bloomington City Hall, Zoom and CATS

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 PM.