



City of Bloomington  
Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

## Minutes

16 August 2018

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00 - 7:05 p.m.)
  - a. Present: David Parkurst, Mike Litwin, Matt Caldie, Nick Kappas, Linda Thompson, Erica Walker, Morgan Taylor, Zoe Need, Stephen Feely
  - b. Absent: Erin Hatch
  - c. Nick proposed an amendment to the agenda to add a section G under Old Business to discuss bringing on commissioners and the recruiting process in general.
    - i. Mike moved to approve the agenda modifications, David seconded.  
Unanimous voice vote in support. Modified agenda approved.
2. Approval of minutes (7:05 - 7:10 p.m.)
  - a. Mike moved to approve July 2018 minutes, Matt seconded. Unanimous vote in support. July minutes approved.
3. Public comment. Limit 5 minutes per person (7:10 - 7:20 p.m.)
  - a. No public comment
4. Reports from tree commission, MoCo EC, & ERAC commissions (7:20 - 7:35)
  - a. David: Tree Commission notes are comprehensive of what happened at the meeting.
  - b. Nick: ERAC is a good committee and fun to be on. There is a new plan to connect Hillside to Rogers
  - c. Nothing from County EC.
  - d. Zoe is back and will resume attending the Tree commission meetings now, but the next meeting is canceled.
5. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (**A cycle**) (7:35 - 8:00 p.m.)

### **A Cycle**

- ECPC/Planning Commission
  - o Century village forwarded to council with no recommendation because plan commission couldn't agree. Chandler's Glen on 17<sup>th</sup> street is going to a second hearing. Not sure if plan commission liked it but it's going to second hearing. Serendipity plan is approved - putting two more stories on top of the building. Will it be awesome? Linda and Nick debate but can't seem to agree. It will have solar panels which is fun.
  - o Linda: two main projects to talk about this week
  - o Crosstown Station
    - Located on East 10<sup>th</sup> street in the area where Lenny's is currently. The plan is for the project to be two mixed use buildings. The developers want

to build it densely and have parking spaces in the back, although not as many spaces as they could have. It looks like they will struggle to abide by landscaping standards. Both buildings are three stories high – two floors of office space on top of each building. One building will be 9,800 sq ft per floor and other 18,000 sq ft per floor. They haven't turned in a landscape plan nor have they identified green features. Since the IU foundation is building it, it will most likely end up be LEED certified because we think that is a new IU rule.

- Erica: Behind this complex is the SRSC, which has the large parking lot that slopes down. There would be a lot of impervious surface in this area if parking for this proposed project is built in the back.
- Linda: It's a massive amount of runoff. They don't yet have a grading plan, but this looks nearly 100% impervious. Because it's being built by the IU foundation, they have to follow the zoning rules for city of Bloomington.
- o Monroe County Youth Services Bureau
  - This is located off of Second Street on Adams near the old farm bureau co-op. There are two buildings on site now, and the plan is to demolish one building and add on to the bigger of the two. The building will be used for youth services, to provide a place for counseling and a place to stay if they are homeless. They want parking in the front setback because the back of the building is preserved nature and they want to keep it that way. It has a raingarden and other garden spots along with solar panels all in the back. There's also a creek in the back that might need a riparian buffer. Water runoff goes straight through where they want the walking pass. It currently goes through a rain garden although the condition of that garden is unknown since it has been a couple years since it's been built
- o ECPC will be working a lot on the Chandler's Glenn on 17<sup>th</sup> case
  - Number of environmental features and developer is ignoring every single one of them
  - This is the developer that Nick yelled at during the Plan Commission meeting because they are ignoring all the karst features despite there being two springs and some sink holes. As part of their defense, the developer cited the code, but it was not the Bloomington code. This plan is basically student housing even though the developer won't admit it. PSI did the karst evaluation and the definition of karst feature that they used isn't the same as in the Bloomington code.
- Waste/Hazard
  - o Nothing
- Water
  - o Did not meet
  - o Did not hear anything back from Friends of Lake Monroe
- BCOS
  - o Nothing because Erin is out



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6. Old business (8:00 – 8:40 p.m.)

A. Letter of support for FLM

- Erica: We decided to support the project in the letter to develop watershed management plan but we will not request that the city put forward a match and are not going to use EC funds
  - o We support and will follow the project and are willing to provide feedback
  - o Drafted a letter based on those criteria and got it over to water group today
  - o Letter is due between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Look at electronic letter in your email to see if there's any edits. If there are, send them to Erica and she will formalize the letter.
- Nick: read through and submit whatever edits you may have by the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Motion to approve letter with future edits provided to Erica assuming no edits are substantive. Motion pass unanimously
- Public comment: Why did EC not support the city matching this plan? Because the utilities department would be providing the match and we never heard back from them when we reached out.

B. FAQ/Q&A pamphlet for composting

- Nick: is this something we should do? It would be a good, positive message to send out and we can provide the pamphlet at tabling events.
- Mike: I like the idea and think it would be something that the new intern/fellow can work on in the fall.

C. Sustainability Action Plan update

- Nick: a draft was compiled and sent to the advisory committee. The plan is a good balance between optimistic and realistic and they've clearly taken the BEAP and the Connectivity Plan into consideration when drafting this, which is good news. They'll be reconvening in a month.

D. UDO recommendation session planning

- We have about a month to go through and make recommendations for Module 2 of the UDO updates. Erica can make a Google Doc that everyone can use to provide their thoughts on sections of the old UDO that they've looked and voice any changes they would like to see. This will be used to prep for when the EC gets together to meet and discuss what changes we want to recommend.
- EC agreed that meetings will be held Wednesday nights starting at 7 pm, starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and carrying through to the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. The location is TBD. Linda will ensure that the public has been notified about the meeting time and location each week.

E. Tabling at Farmers' Market process and dates

- Have about \$300 in the budget remaining, and the plan is to use \$200 to buy plants that we can give out at the farmer's market. Each plug is about 4 inches tall and 1

and a half inches in diameter. Motion to spend \$200 on plants passed unanimously through a voice vote. The money that we will spend on the plants has come from private donation rather than tax money, so we should thank our sponsors at the tabling event when we have the plants.

- Matt: we also have our survey that we can give out at the Farmer's market to see how important the public rates environmental initiatives and what possible UDO changes they would like to see. Erin made an online version of the survey that we can send out to businesses and widen our reach.
- Morgan: how many commissioners do we need for each slot at the tabling?
  - o Best to have two commissioners there at a time in case one person needs to go to the bathroom or if a commissioner is speaking with someone and a new patron comes to the table wanting to learn information. Having two people would be more efficient. The plan is to aim to table at the Farmer's market on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### F. Transportation Plan comments

- People have been getting riled up at the meetings for this one. Our concern is that some people will want to put streets in areas of Bloomington that have been outlined in the Connectivity Plan. Some people like this because it would allow greater access for more development, this would be counter-intuitive to the Connectivity Plan and go against the work that we put into constructing that.

#### G. Commissioner Recruiting

- Linda: I haven't heard any updates on this yet but we have a lot of applicants and some very good ones as well. The city is probably tied up with the budget meetings at the moment and that is causing some of the delay on getting new EC members.

### 7. New business (8:40 – 8:50)

#### A. Vote on new and updated information handouts

- Motion to approve the fact sheets (get all the names from Linda). Seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

#### B. vote on new greenspace definition

- Motion to vote with clarifications with edits. Motion passes unanimously. Erin will draft that up (update on gardens on email info from Nick)

### 8. Commissioner announcements (8:50 – 9:00 p.m.)

- Matt: moved to a different location within Bloomington and during that time he didn't throw any significant furniture away
- Dave: Candidate for Bloomingfoods council and votes are coming up soon. He would appreciate votes and to spread the word.
- Morgan: construction on second is pretty much done
- Mike: nothing
- Stephen: Sierra Club sells shirts that say "make America green again" and are really fun.
- Zoe: she returned from DC after interning with the EPA where she got to meet both Pruitt and Wheeler.
- Erica: went to the water summit – it's just ok. Good first start to have all different parties come together. Action items need improvements
- Linda: nothing
- Nick: He and his wife are expecting a child with the due date in February 2019 (hopefully the baby won't be born on Valentine's Day since Nick is very anti-valentine's day). Because of this extra commitment in his life, he is going to roll off his position on the Environmental Commission at the end of the year, but plans to keep his position on the Plan Commission. While it is sad to hear that

Nick will be stepping down, everyone is very happy for him and his wife and congratulate him on the good news.

## 9. Adjournment

### Other meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 20 September, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. EC Planning Committee: 15 August, 29 August, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 19 September, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 11 September, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 12 September, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 10 September, 4:30 p.m., TBD