



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.

AGENDA

15 November 2018, 7:00 PM
City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation (7:00 p.m.)
 - Present: Erica Walker, Ryan Clemens, Matt Caldie, Nick Kappas (Chair), Andrea Webster, Lindsey Hummel, Zoe Need, Andrew Guenther, Linda Thompson (Liaison), Kate Corcoran (SPEA Fellow)
 - Absent: Erin Hatch, Morgan Taylor, David Parkhurst

2. Introductions: (7:01 - 7:05) New commissioner: Chris Erickson - approved last night! Chris is in his third year of law school at IU, works at the public defender's office, has a history of government work and a degree in forestry, and was an environmental volunteer in Peace Corps. He would like to practice law or do policy work in an administrative setting and is interested in community involvement.

Nick proposed change of agenda to add old letter to the editor discussion to the end of meeting. Linda proposed discussion of changing meeting times for the agenda as well. Motion approved and passed unanimously. Next tree commission meeting will be held on December 12th, not the 19th as previously set.

3. Approval of minutes (7:05 - 7:10) Linda suggested changes to previous minutes: change "plot zoning" to "spot zoning"; remove some of Linda's comments; some grammatical changes. Minutes approved pending changes.

4. Public comment Limit 5 minutes per person (7:10 - 7:20) No public comment.

5. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, & ERAC (7:20 - 7:40)

- TC meeting was canceled. Next meeting will go over urban forestry plan.
- Dave is ERAC rep and he is absent.
- MoCo: Looking to give out grants from the environmental savings fund. Working with County Council to partner with the Sophia Travis Grant. First County Council must meet and agree on it, and it is not certain to pass. Then there would be an application process. Nick discussed the potential to apply grants to retrofitting solar panels on buildings.
- BCOS: Erin was absent. The Council adopted the Sustainability Action Plan at the last meeting.

6. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (B Cycle) (7:40 - 8:00)

A Cycle

~~A. ECPC/Planning Commission~~

~~B. Waste/Hazards~~

~~C. Water~~

B Cycle

- A. Outreach: Feedback from UDO survey was gathered and we will have that soon. Our comments on the UDO module 2 have not been officially submitted yet. Nick would like to begin getting into schools and educating.
- B. ECPC/Planning Commission: Two cases for next month's planning commission and we have discussed both of them. Linda has no other new cases to report.

Refresher: One of the previously discussed cases was the two acre lot behind Barnes & Noble on the east side. This lot is one of the last habitats in Bloomington for Red Winged Blackbirds (there is another area across the street). The ECPC is concerned with the size of the building and the lack of room for landscaping and street trees. When a lot is designated a PUD (Planned Unit Development) it doesn't follow regular zoning rules because developers claim their property doesn't fit the regular sets of rules. ECPC asserts there is not a good reason for this lot to be a PUD. Intended purpose of the development is young professional/nursing student housing around the new hospital.

Nick: Tri North plans to tear down the current school building, build a new school, and move the football field to be where old school building was. This plan will include more cement, more parking, and another road. The stand of trees currently located behind the football field would be taken out so the road could be built. Replacement trees will be planted and used as an outdoor education lab for the school kids. This plan has been approved including the driveway through the strand of trees and the plans will now be submitted to the planning department.

Linda: The other case is Morton North on 11th street. The structure proposed was a combination hotel, apartments, and parking garage all in one building.

C. Biodiversity: has been disbanded for the time being.

7. Old business (8:00 - 8:30)

A. UDO recommendations session planning: Nick filled Chris in on the UDO recommendation planning sessions the EC did in the past, at which members of the EC met outside of regular meeting time to intensively read and evaluate environmental standards in the proposed UDO and formulate amendment suggestions. Nick thinks we should do these again. Erica proposes we all individually read the UDO and make comments, then meet to discuss. Mike says the UDO module two should be sent to all new members. Champaign-Urbana IL, Ann Arbor MI, Gainesville FL, Asheville NC, Austin TX, Eugene OR are cities that we looked at before to compare our UDO to the city codes of similar cities. Nick suggests attending Planning Commission meetings to speak for the amendments we want to make.

* ACTION ITEM: We would like to meet the second week of December and will send out a doodle poll to decide on the date.

B. Eco Hero's theme for 2019: Eco Heroes is an art contest for K-12 schools. There are four age categories for kids, and an adult category. Ryan suggested a Recycling/Upcycling theme for this year's competition. Linda suggested a water theme. Zoe suggested coming a together/working together theme - 'non-partisan planet' or community action. Matt suggested that the educational value of a theme could be a factor, and kids could learn a lot from something like an ecosystems theme.

It was decided that re/upcycling be included in the instructions as a possible feature for submissions. Our theme will be water! Kate and Erin will come up with a catchy phrase for the name of the competition. Zoe says there is a list of catchy phrases online (thanks Zoe).

C. Appointment of Nomination Committee: Per the handbook, the chair appoints a slate committee that nominates the officers for the next year. The chair is in charge of annual report, representing the EC at other meetings, and running EC meetings. (This is all in the handbook). Nick recommends treasurer or secretary puts together meeting agenda, rather than the chair. Nick would also like to see the treasurer utilize the line funds more. This year some of it was spent on badges, binders, plants, etc. Nick also recommends secretary works with interns to edit and maintain minutes, as well as puts together minutes for the next meeting.

Nick will put Mike, Dave, and Matt on the slate committee. If you are interested about a certain position, reach out to someone on the slate committee.

D. Nick's Letter to the Editor: Nick wrote an Op-Ed about affordable housing in Bloomington. From a developer's standpoint, to develop affordable housing you need affordable land. The affordable land that is left is environmentally sensitive land. Equity, affordability, and environment are all important (three legged stool). He will send the letter around to the EC again.

8. New business (8:30 - 8:45)

A. January "2019 priority project" (aka Bucket List) meeting planning:
Linda: we can finalize this next month.

Nick: The pitch is, what do you want to see happen in Bloomington before you die?

Linda: Or, what do you want to see happen in 2019?

Nick: Was thinking this year we could have a potluck and brainstorm projects to perform and improve our city. This meeting is open to the public. Start thinking of projects you want to see done.

B. Time change

Linda: Do we want to make EC meeting earlier in the evening?

Nick: I think 6 o'clock would be a great time.

Linda and Ryan suggest 5:30.

Linda: We need to decide this soon because we have to turn in the time and days for the room for the city calendar.

Nick: You could overlap with other committee meetings changing the time so be aware of that.

*ACTION ITEM: Let's send out a poll to see if 5:30 works for everyone. But first, let's call Dave and Morgan to see if 5:30 works first and if so not send out a poll. Linda will call Dave and Erica will call Morgan.

9. Commissioner announcements (8:45 - 9:00)

Kate: Check the riparian buffer ordinance spreadsheet that I emailed you for a list of similar cities and links to their city codes. You can use them to compare our UDO to.

Linda: Tomorrow night is a reception at the Mill for boards and commission members at 5:30. There are door prizes and it will be better this year. She hopes everyone can make it.

Zoe: No new announcements.

Ryan: Just went to the Mills dedication. It was cool and uplifting and a great event. Earlier this week he also went to the regional lead and healthy homes conference and learned a lot about lead and water, and networked with people all over the northeastern part of the country.

Erica: No new announcements.

Andrea: No new announcements.

Lindsay: No new announcements.

Mike: No new announcements.

Chris: No new announcements.

Andrew: No new announcements.

Matt: No new announcements.

Nick: Thanks to Chris for his interest in the commission. He hopes to see us tomorrow at the event at the Mill. He again wants us to consider being in a position.

10. Adjournment

Other meeting times

A. Environmental Commission: 20 December, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall

B. EC Planning Committee: 28 November, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall

C. Tree Commission: 19 December, 9:30 a.m., Rosehill Office

D. BCOS meeting: 11 December, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room

E. MCEC Com.: 12 December, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse

F. ERAC: 12 December, 4:30 p.m., TBD