



**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.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES**

16 September 2021, 6:00 PM

## **1. Call to order and quorum confirmation**

Call to order at 6:07 PM.

Matt Caldie Attended  
Daniel Gonzalez Attended  
Mathias Benko Attended  
Mike Litwin Attended  
Cory Ray Attended  
Don Eggert Attended  
Scott Shackelford Attended  
David Parkhurst Attended

## **2. Approval of minutes\***

Delayed until Next month

## **3. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total**

None

**4. Reports from: Tree Commission, Monroe County Environmental Commission, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability, Environmental Resource Advisory Council, Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council, Friends of Lake Monroe, & Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species**

### **Commission on Sustainability:**

Lauren discussed the climate change assessment that Monroe County participated in. The county did reasonably well on floodplain management response. There were a few deficiencies (Communication specifically). Unfortunately, many counties in Indiana didn't participate in this assessment. The county

did implement its cooling operations this past summer, which means they did get to practice their climate change mitigation techniques. One commissioner did raise the concern over the city's use of glyphosate. BCOS will be going before the City Council to discuss materials on ecojustice. They are planning on having 2 consultants present from Oakland that worked on that city's environmental justice project. They want to re-establish the working group on waste. They are trying to eliminate plastic waste in any way they can.

#### MC-IRIS:

Notes were sent around. However, last Saturday they did have the native plant sale and it was a huge success!

## 5. Discussion from active working groups:

### A. *ECPC/Plan Commission WG (Linda Thompson, staff liaison)*

#### i. October Plan Commission cases

The Plan Commission meeting this month will have three cases that we have already discussed. They are the following: Ivy Chase subdivision, Johnson Creamery, and Ridge Field section five. There is one new case which is a simple subdivision. It is on West Third Street. It is a request for a preliminary plat approval, and it is a mixed corridor zoning district. The lot is 2 and a half acres and a third of it was developed as an assistant living facility. The petitioner wants to subdivide it. The site originally had two sink holes on it, but those were removed once the assistant living facility was built. There are no environmental impediments. The petition is just for a sub-division.

### B. *Last minute organization for Outreach WG (Ben Sharaf)*

In regard to Eco Heroes, a PowerPoint of all the artwork will be put together and the PowerPoint will announce the winners. Linda and Ben will put together all the gift baskets for the contestants. You should be able to pick up your tote bags shortly. Eco Heroes should come to a complete close next week once everyone picks up their gifts. There will also be a rollover of money next year for Eco Heroes.

The Panel Discussion group met last week. Everyone has their tasks to make sure it runs smoothly. Sarah Mincey unfortunately cancelled last minute. We will meet with all the panelists next week and Cory will help design the flyer. Please send questions to Ben to give to the panelists.

### C. *Biodiversity WG update (Ben Sharaf)*

Angela Van Rooy has asked the EC to put up a table at a neighborhood event. She was hoping we could hand out information on the Habitat Connectivity Plan. Unfortunately, we are not ready for the event yet.

## 6. Old business:

The vote on Mike's history of the EC took place. Cory motioned to vote and Mike Seconded

Daniel Approved

Mathias Approved  
Don Approved  
David Approved  
Mike Approved  
Cory Approved  
Scott Approved  
Matt Approved

## 7. Commissioner announcements

If you can donate clothes to Afghan Refugees, please email David for more information on where to go.

Matt will send out a draft of an article that he hopes to send to the HT to post for the month of October. Please send him back any edits you might have.

A new federal initiative by the Biden administration will now be protecting 80% of Indiana wetlands including ephemeral streams. This is higher than even the Obama administration levels.

## 8. Adjournment

Matt called the meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM

Next EC meeting: October 21, 2021, 6:00 p.m., TBD