



**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

19 August 2021, 6:00 PM

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation

Call to order at 6:02 PM

Call to Order:

Mike Litwin
Don Eggert
Andrew Guenther
Sam Armstrong
Cory Ray
Matt Caldie
Dedaimia Whitney
Scott Shackelford
David Parkhurst
Mathias Benko:

2. Introductions

None

3. Approval of minutes

Minutes moved and seconded.

Mike: Approved
Don: Approved
Andrew: Approved
Sam: Approved
Cory: Approved
Matt: Approved
Dedaimia: Approved
Scott: Approved
David: Approved

4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No Public Comment.

5. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, ERAC, MPO-CAC, FOLM, & MC-IRIS

TC: They have taken the month of August off

ERAC: Met on August 11th. Joanna Sparks mentioned that various native plants around the city are looking well, despite the heat. A new shelter is being built by Leonard Springs Nature Park. It will be 20 ft by 30 ft. Trail signs and boot brushes are going up at various parks around Bloomington. Weed wrangles were also discussed. Griffy Loop Trail and fishing pier will go out to bid August 20th. There will be 700-800 students going to Leonard Springs this fall. 4th grade students will be going to Griffy this fall. Bird and bug fest will happen this year. Lattimore Woods and Brown Woods management plans were discussed. A stream at Switchyard that has been uncovered was also discussed.

MPO-CAC: The month of August was taken off.

FOLM: No new updates

MC-IRIS: Native Plant Sale will occur on September 11th. The weed wrangle at the RCA park will help people see the species diversity in the area.

6. Discussion from active working groups:

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

i. Overlook on Third, LLC

Last month the plan was continued. It is a major site plan request for 175-unit residential multifamily apartment and a self-storage building. It is 10 acres on the northwest corner of state road 46 and 446. It will have 5 multifamily buildings and 1 multistory climate control self-storage building. Storm water will be handled by underground detention. The issues are a maintenance manual for the underground detention, recycling space, and green building practices.

ii. University property 6

At 7th and Lincoln. A major site plan for a 4-story residential structure with 16 units. It is in the mix use student housing district. Currently, there are 2 structures there that will be demolished, and they are proposing a 4-story residential building with a mix of studios and 2-bedroom units and have a basement level parking garage with 10 spaces. They will remove the entrance on 17th street and will add one on Lincoln. Tree plots and sidewalks and a multiuse path will be constructed. The landscape plan that they gave was superimposed over a parking lot. They are expecting revisions on that.

iii. Ivy Chase

Major revisions are expected. They have been approved before, but now they must follow current UDO rules. They are asking for culdesacs. It has a number of sink holes. It is wooded. They hope the karst and tree conservation easements can be moved to private property instead of common area. The downside is that it would be difficult to monitor the private property of their conservation easement.

iv. Aspen Heights

703 Gurley Pike. Requesting approval of a major site plan on 12 and half acres to allow a 241-unit student housing development. Currently, the area has 15 buildings and they hope to demolish the units. At the end of the project, they hope to have 495 parking spots on the site. There is a surface water course, which will need a riparian buffer. There are steep slopes and closed canopy wooded areas close by, which we will need to make sure gets put in when the final plan is proposed.

v. Johnson Creamery

A story building. It will be on the North End where there is currently a parking lot. They are seeking development incentives to allow for one story higher than would be normally allowed. The building would be a total of 5 stories. They need to submit a landscape plan. They are Planning light colored heart scape, covered parking, cool or vegetative roof, and solar panels. They are seeking less than the minimum parking spaces. They have surface parking being adjacent to the B-line trail. Linda hopes they will move that.

vi. Ridgefield

On N Prow Road in the 3500 block of hack berry street. It is a request for a final plan and a preliminary plat amendment for a current PUD. They hope to remedy the deficiencies previously made during construction. They also want to reduce the size of the tree preservation on the land, which is a red flag for the EC. They want less tree preservation than originally stated.

B. Last minute organization for Outreach WG (Ben Sharaf and Organizer)

Eco Hero Flyers have been passed out to schools and businesses by Ben and Don. There will hopefully be a great number of students participating in the event. We have much more money than usual because of the cancelled event 2 years ago. We are also purchasing Tote bags as prizes. EC members will also receive Tote bags. Many prizes have also been given by businesses.

We have received few responses for Eco Heroes. We are sending out more invitations this week. We will inform you once we have confirmed all the panelists. The Panel Discussion has taken much more time than expected. We have also not received timely feedback from the working group, so we went ahead and made decisions without the input of the working group. If we cannot find the necessary people, we may need to cancel. We decided on one hour and thirty-minute session. We also agreed on a short introduction from the panelists and then a question-and-answer format. We can have questions made in advance. We will send the questions to the panelists ahead of time. Each EC member will come up with a question and send it to Ben via email. Four is the optimum amount of panelists. 5 would be ok too. Covid has made it difficult to book people for the event. For an MC we thought we could invite Mark Cruzan (former mayor of Bloomington). Bob Zaltsburge is another option. Several people thought Bob Zaltsburge was the best option. It was also suggested that we could have the panel discussion on his radio show. To advertise, we decided a Facebook boost would be the most cost-efficient option. The Eco Heroes Flyer will be boosted next week. The next issue that was discussed was what the commission wanted the title of the event to be. It was decided that the event would be titled "What do we want Bloomington to look like in 50 years." It is more optimistic than some of the other suggestions. It was also suggested that we move both Eco Heroes and the panel discussion online. This way we don't have to risk it. It was also suggested keeping the panelists all in one area to do the zoom broadcast. It was put to a vote to put the panel discussion and Eco Heroes online.

Cory put the vote in motion, Don Seconded.

Sam Approved

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

Unanimously approved

C. Biodiversity update (Ben Sharaf and Organizer)

Currently Linda and Ben are editing The Habitat Connectivity Pledge and Brochure. We will be able to dedicate more time to this after the panel discussion and Eco Heroes is over. The wildlife and Natural Areas section of the BEQI has also been finished.

9. Commissioner announcements

The parking commission project Andrew was working on has been withdrawn because of backlash with the city clerk. The city clerk didn't want to deal with more parking tickets.

If you want locally sourced food, check out the Grows Hills Farm Stop! It's about two blocks past Juanitas.

Earth Charter will be introducing legislation with Senator Ron Alting to get Indiana to recognize the climate crisis happening in Indiana.

Some people in Bloomington are interested in bringing back the old Sierra Club chapter. Look out for that in the coming weeks.

Lake Monroe will not be used as a reservoir for the City of Indianapolis because it will be too expensive.

Please look at the draft of the EC's history that Mike has written.

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 7:33 PM

Next EC meeting: September 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m., TBD