



**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 AGENDA

17 March 2022, 6:00

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1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

Call to order at 6:05. There is a quorum confirmation.

Megan Murphy Present
Matt Caldie Present
Mike Litwin Present
Sam Armstrong Present
David Parkhurst Present
Don Eggert Present
Dedaimia Whitney Present Remotely (Zoom)
Luke Swain Present Remotely (Zoom)
Carrie Albright Present Remotely (Zoom)
Scott Shackelford Absent

2. Approval of minutes:*

Megan Yay
Matt Yay
Mike Yay
Sam Yay
David Yay
Don Yay
Dedaimia Yay
Luke Yay
Carry Yay

The minutes from the month of February were approved unanimously.

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

No public comment.

5. Reports from: Tree Commission (TC), Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC), Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS), Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC), Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council (MPOCAC), Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM), & Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS), Environmental Commission Planning Committee (ECPC).

TC: Has not met this month. The next meeting will be held at switchyard park.

MCEC: Did not meet last month. Sam was not able to attend this month's meeting.

BCOS: They met last Tuesday. First, Lauren announced the city is setting up a google response to see what people are doing to address the city's climate needs. Also, they are launching a trial program with the downtown restaurants to reduce food waste. There "housing first" meeting is coming up on April 20th.

ERAC: This commission has a meeting every other month and David has already reported on this month's meeting.

MC-IRIS: They are preparing for their tree sale. MC-IRIS is working with the Parks Department to put out placards related to Callery pears. They hope to have a billboard on removing Callery pears on a street. They are putting materials out around the city advocating for the removal of this year's target plant (Callery pears). They are brainstorming how low-income community members can remove Callery pears and replace them with new trees. Callery pears are also increasing on city property. There will be weed wrangles happening in lower cascades over the next few weeks.

ECPC: Linda hopes the ECPC can meet soon to discuss ideas on how to move forward with replacing the responsibilities she held with advising the Planning Commission and city development. Mike wanted to know if we should wait to make any decisions on this because of the possible combination of the EC and BCOS. Linda clarified that the Novak report will not interfere with EC business at this point in time. Linda previously arranged the meeting times. Linda will reach out to the committee and see when everyone will be available to discuss this issue.

6. Discussion from active working groups:

A. Biodiversity: Update on Connectivity Plan

Ben will be giving a presentation to the city council most likely in the month of May. This presentation will be very similar to the presentation he gave back in March. Don has mentioned the Habitat Connectivity Plan to people in Southeast Park. Don suggested handing out flyers at the incoming SAGE Fest and thinks it will be a good idea to hand out the Brochure there at the MC-IRIS table. This was a welcomed idea.

B. Eco Heroes specifics:

All the materials have been sent to the teachers and educators. Donation requests from businesses have also been sent out. We have received one donation from Wonderlabs so far. Flyers were not allowed to be represented on windows in grocery's unfortunately. However, Bloomingfoods (at both locations) offered to hand out flyers.

The people willing to judge the event are as follow...

Meghan, Matt, Sam, Don, Dedaimia, and Carrie.

7. New business:

A. Discussion regarding Air Quality Working Group and working groups in general

Ben has started monitoring the air quality in Bloomington with a Flow 2 device. This device measures VOC, PM 1, PM 2.5, PM 10, and NO2 levels. So far, Ben has measured the air quality of five different sites once a month for three months. Linda and Ben identified these five sites based on location, amount of traffic, and income level. Five new locations were identified recently that we wish to add. Ben will share a map with everyone on where the test locations are. David would like to join the working group. He is also a friend of an air chemist in SPEA and he can contact him with ideas about how we should go about testing the air quality in Bloomington.

The people interested in participating in this working group are as follows:

Matt
David
Don
Sam
Luke

Matt asked if it was in the city budget to get a stationary air quality monitor. Linda and Ben have a meeting with the Director of the Planning and Transportation Department next week and this question can be asked. Ben will send reports on the quality of the Flow 2 device. Unfortunately, it is not that reliable. People can research certain devices and recommend which ones will get the best results for the lowest cost. It is unclear what the budget allotment for this is. Don would like to know the change in air quality in Bloomington since IU switched to burning natural gas. Also, the industrial activity has changed dramatically over the last 30 years. IDEM has only one air quality monitor near Binford elementary, so it is unlikely that we will be able to find a record of the changes. We will schedule a meeting through When2Meet.

Linda believes we should set up a Biodiversity Working Group meeting soon. Ben can go over everything with everybody to ensure that nothing needs to be worked on.

B. Letter of support for ban on polypropylene erosion/turf netting *

Linda just sent out the letter to the EC this morning. David believes one sentence should be changed to ensure that it is clear that the turf nets are not biodegradable and do not break

down into elements found in nature. Since it was just sent out, the EC decided to postpone the vote until next month to ensure everyone reads the letter.

C. Discussion of the report on the cities boards and commissions, by Novak Consulting Group

There are currently no updates on this topic. The liaison from BCOS and Linda reached out to the administration and have not received any information that the city will be acting on the recommendations made by the Novak Consulting Group.

8. Commissioner announcements:

Bloom Magazine had an article on COCORAS. COCORAS is a program that measures that amount of precipitation each day. All you need to do is buy a rain gage for \$50 to participate. It is helpful to the National Weather Service and many more. Please email David for more information.

David also wanted to inform everyone of a local farm stop that consists of 30-40 farmers that sell their goods. It is located on West Kirkwood, about 2 blocks beyond Juanita's Colorful Restaurant. It is called Rosehill Farm Stop. It used to be an appliance shop. David recommends supporting local farmers.

9. Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 PM

* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: April 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m., TBD