

Environmental Commission Minutes

6/16/22

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

Members present in person were Sam Armstrong (chair), Matt Caldie (vice-chair), Mike Litwin (secretary-treasurer), Carrie Albright, Don Eggert, David Parkhurst, Megan Murphy. The meeting was telecast live by CATS. A quorum was confirmed.

2. Introductions: No public introductions

3. Approval of May minutes:

David motions, Matt seconds, minutes are approved unanimously

4. Public comment: No public comment

5. Reports from:

Tree Commission (TC):

-No report, however Dedaimia had sent minutes via email

Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC):

-No report

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS):

-Don reported on BCOS discussion of electric vehicle charging stations and commission working groups

Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC):

-David reported on Switchyard Park wetlands, invasive plant management, and the new Goat Farm Park plans (Rogers Family Park)

Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council (MPOCAC):

-Sam reported that there wasn't anything relevant to us

Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM):

-No report

Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS):

-Don reported about weed wrangles and the difficulty of controlling invasive plants (especially Callery Pear)

6. Discussion from active working groups:

A. Biodiversity working group: Habitat Connectivity Plan next steps

-Do we think the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape could provide funding for our Connectivity plan?

-Matt wants to know how people can access the Habitat Connectivity Plan online to participate.

-Sam wants the website updated, Matt and Megan volunteer to help.

B. Air Quality working group:

-Working group did not meet last month, but Flow 2 sensors have arrived and will need to be distributed.

-Don reports that Whitehorse, Yukon is monitoring for microplastics in the air and thinks we should be too.

-Sam asked Linda to ask if air quality monitors are something we could potentially fundraise for.

7. Old business: none

8. New Business: none

9. Commissioner announcements:

- David shared that the Peregrine Falcon is the fastest animal on earth
- Mike recommends trail at Latimer Woods. Says it's hard to find but worth checking out
- Carrie shared Citizen Science Firefly Watch information to track and report on firefly activity