

Environmental Commission Minutes

July 28, 2022

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00.

Members present in person were Sam Armstrong (chair), Matt Caldie (vice-chair), Mike Litwin (secretary-treasurer), Don Eggert, David Parkhurst, Carrie Albright, Megan Murphy, and Scott Shackelford. Members attending via Zoom were Dedaimia Whitney and Luke Swain. A quorum was confirmed.

Staff present: Linda Thompson (Senior Environmental Planner)

2. Introductions

3. Approval of minutes from the June 16 meeting

The previous month's minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

4. Public comment

none

5. Reports from EC attendance of other commissions and groups

Of the meetings that were attended, EC members noted the following items of interest:

Tree Commission – Dedaimia reported that the TC is working on an updated list of approved trees, and would like their list to take precedent over other lists. Also, the City needs a new urban forester.

BCOS - Don stated that BCOS discussed environmental justice.

ERAC – Dave informed the EC that a celebration of the completion of the Griffy Lake causeway improvements will take place tomorrow.

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee – Sam reported that the City is planning a replacement of the Eagleson Avenue railroad bridge. INDOT will install several new electric vehicle charging stations around the state.

MC-IRIS – Don mentioned that MC-IRIS will hold a Fall plant sale on September 10. Weed wrangles will continue at City parks.

6. Old Business

The ECPC/Steering Committee meeting set for July 26 was postponed.

7. New Business

A. The EC voted unanimously to send a letter to the Lawrence County Soil and Water District, supporting a 319 grant for Lake Monroe. The letter was written by Dave Parkhurst.

B. The EC discussed the 3-day rule concerning notification to Linda of the need to miss a meeting. A vote to change the rule to 2 days passed unanimously,

C. The EC discussed storm water control, and will send recommendations to CBU on using alternative storm water control methods (e.g. rain gardens). Sam offered to send the EC his hydrologic GIS for our watershed. There was an interest in finding speakers on the subject.

10. Commissioner announcements

Megan will provide a report that she developed on comparing native insect use of native vs non-native plants.

Don provided an update on the callery pear removal project.

Scott informed the EC of a new book entitled Ministry of the Future.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00.