



**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

February 16, 2023, 6:00PM

Hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

Call to order at 6:04 pm

Sam Armstrong (chair) Present

Matt Caldie (vice-chair) Present

Mike Litwin (secretary/ treasurer) Present

David Parkhurst Present

Megan Murphy Present

Carrie Albright Present

Kristen Mann (new member) present

Conner Wright present

Luke Swain absent

Betsy MCleery absent

Alauna Keeley (intern, fellow) absent

The meeting was telecast live by CATS.

Staff present in person included Linda Thompson (Sr. Environmental Planner)

2. Introductions:

The commissioners and staff briefly introduced themselves.

3. Approval of Minutes:

The EC voted unanimously to approve the January, 2023 minutes.

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

Two visitors from BCOS introduced themselves (David Maenner, Emma Ferguson). They spoke briefly about EC/BCOS coordination.

5. Guest Presentation

Gillian Field of the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department discussed the City's Adopt-A greenspace volunteer and Park Ambassadors programs. She stressed the importance of addressing invasive plant species for greenspace connectivity, and reminded the commissioners of the periodic volunteer weed wrangles.

6. New Business:

A. Vote on new officers

Candidates for each office were: chair - Carrie; vice-chair - Megan; secretary/treasurer - Kristen.

All candidates were elected by unanimous vote.

B. Signup for working groups

There was a brief discussion on working groups. Matt pointed out that, based on the results of our bucket list meeting, outreach is a priority for this year. There was a reminder that the Eco-Heroes award will be announced on April 22. Linda mentioned tabling at the Master Gardeners fair on April 15. Sam suggested considering Environmental Justice in the Biodiversity Working Group. Linda will email a provisional list of working group members, with a request for additional volunteers.

7. 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).

TC: Dave provided the EC with a report via email. The City Forester planted 500 trees in 2022.

MCEC (Megan): There have been no updates since last month.

BCOS (Don): The recent BCOS meeting stressed the need for outreach and communicating with other commissions that have overlapping duties with BCOS.

ERAC (Dave): At the February 8 meeting ERAC discussed a possible expansion of Leonard Springs Park, the results of the Griffy deer study (concluding that deer browse has been reduced), the Jackson Creek trail extension, the Griffy loop trail, and ongoing work at Goat Farm Park (to be completed in April).

MPOCAC (Sam): There is nothing new to report since last month.

FOLM (Dave): The annual State Lakes Management Conference will be held at Fourwinds.

MC-IRIS: As a follow-up to Gillian's presentation, Don discussed recent weed wrangles and results.

8. Commissioner Announcements:

Linda stated that Alauna will be working on the Habitat Connectivity Plan mapping project.

Thanks were given to Matt and Sam for their work as chair and vice-chair in 2022. Sam may move outside the City limits, in which case he would have to resign from the EC.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next EC meeting: March 16, 2023, 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

Statement on public meetings during public health emergency

As a result of Executive Orders issued by the Governor, Eric Holcomb, the Commission and its committees may adjust normal meeting procedures to adhere to guidance provided by state officials. These adjustments may include:

- allowing members of the Commission and its committees to participate in meetings electronically;
- posting notices and agendas for meetings both by electronic means and physically.
- using electronic meeting platforms to allow for remote public attendance and participation (when possible);

- encouraging the public to watch meetings via Community Access Television Services broadcast or livestream, and encouraging remote substitution of public comment (via email, to environment@bloomington.in.gov).

As a quorum of the Commission or its committees may be present, this gathering constitutes a meeting under the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. § 5-14-1.5). For that reason, this statement provides notice that this meeting will occur and is open for the public to attend, observe, and record what transpires.

The Bloomington Environmental Commission (EC) wishes to acknowledge and honor the indigenous communities native to this region, and recognize that the City of Bloomington, Indiana was built on indigenous homelands and resources.