



**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 NOTICE and REGULAR SESSION AGENDA**

May 18, 2023, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room # 245  
Hybrid meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/85294590509?pwd=ZStiRStsK21NNUthRnkwTINmZEExdz09>

or on Community Access Television Service (CATS), <https://catstv.net/government.php>.

Auxiliary aids are available upon request with adequate notice.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation:

Call to order at 6:04pm.

2. Introductions and Roll Call:

A. In person:

Carrie Albright (chair) Present

Connor Wright Present

Don Eggert Present

Karena Tankersley Present

Matt Caldie Present

Mike Litwin Present

Shannon Gayk Present

B. Via Zoom:

David Parkhurst Present

Mitchell Owens Present

C.

Megan Murphy (vice-chair) Absent

Kristen Mann (secretary/treasurer) Absent

The meeting was telecast live by CATS.

Staff present included Linda Thompson (Sr. Environmental Planner)

Introductions:

The EC welcomed Mitchell Owens and Shannon Gayk as new commissioners. Mitchell works for IDEM in the water quality monitoring, has a PhD in geography, and is particularly interested in volunteer monitoring activities, such as Hoosier Riverwatch. Shannon teaches in I.U.'s English department, and has a particular interest in environmental literature and the humanities as well as communication.

3. Approval of April 16, 2023 minutes:\*

Matt moved to approve the minutes. Connor seconds the motion.

A. Roll call vote

Connor Wright	YEA
Carrie Albright	YEA
Don Eggert	YEA
Karena Tankersley	Abstain
Matt Caldie	YEA
Mike Litwin	YEA
Shannon Gayk	Abstain
David Parkhurst (Zoom)	YEA
Mitchell Owens (Zoom)	Abstain
Megan Murphy	N/A
Kristen Mann	N/A

The EC moved to approve the April minutes.

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

No comment from the public.

5. Old business:

a. College/Walnut corridor study participation discussion

- Discussion on survey→ EC won't weigh in on any specific details or opinion, but will potentially try to disseminate the survey for greater participation from City and community via our Facebook page. The group recognizes the potential to share anything that connects the EC with the City, boards, or commissions for improved collaboration and support of future initiatives.

b. UDO update discussion regarding riparian buffers

- Mike briefed the group on the UDO and how we used to go through Linda for recommendations regarding environmental elements. Now that the process has changed, we're working through how the EC weighs in on planning developments. Mike had suggested having a meeting with the Planning department but hasn't received any response. There is potential to coordinate with the City Council formally or informally, and Matt has already approached Matt Flaherty with the topic.

6. New business:

a. Air quality report

- Matt has shared his final draft of the Air Quality Report for feedback and approval. He would like to share this with Council, but note that the EC isn't the administration in the delivery. Linda commented that the delimit for Bloomington is something people ask about so this report will potentially hold public value as well. Matt will pursue getting on the agenda to present to City Council and inform the EC when this will happen. Shannon asked about what we do with this after the report is published and finalized. Matt plans to write a guest column. Mitchell asks how much Matt worked with IDEM Air Monitoring on the report, Matt didn't have any direct communication. Mitchell offered any contacts he can support making. Linda will send a press release to the Mayor's Office and they'll send it to all our contacts.

- Matt moves to publish report on EC website with last pending change. Mike seconds.

Connor Wright                      YEA

Carrie Albright	YEA
Don Eggert	YEA
Karena Tankersley	YEA
Matt Caldie	YEA
Mike Litwin	YEA
Shannon Gayk	YEA
David Parkhurst (Zoom)	YEA
Mitchell Owens (Zoom)	YEA
Megan Murphy	N/A
Kristen Mann	N/A

b. Feedback on website updates

- The EC webpage has been updated by Matt and Alauna. There was a brief discussion on tagging other Commissions, Boards, or Departments, as the Planning and Transportation Dept was linked (due to Linda’s liaison status). If there are other groups we want to add or denote affiliation with in some way, EC Commissioners should provide any feedback on who we want to add or how we want to talk about it, as well as any edits or. Connor spotted an issue with the mobile version— text overlaps with the Apply button. Matt will check with City’s website person on solutions there.

c. Urban Forester Grant support\*

- George Hegeman inquired about the EC submitting letter of support for the Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grants for the Urban Forester by June 1. To include this discussion in the May EC meeting, Dave moves to add the discussion to the agenda. Matt seconds. The Commissioners voted on the consideration.

Connor Wright	YEA
Carrie Albright	YEA
Don Eggert	YEA
Karena Tankersley	YEA
Matt Caldie	YEA
Mike Litwin	YEA
Shannon Gayk	YEA
David Parkhurst (Zoom)	YEA
Mitchell Owens (Zoom)	YEA
Megan Murphy	N/A
Kristen Mann	N/A

d. Discussion of supporting urban forester receiving grant and David Parkhurst emailing letter to commissioners for edits and submission prior to June 1.\*

Matt moves in favor of urban forester receiving grant and David Parkhurst emailing letter to commissioners for edits and submission prior to June 1. Shannon seconds.

Connor Wright	YEA
Carrie Albright	YEA
Don Eggert	YEA
Karena Tankersley	YEA
Matt Caldie	YEA
Mike Litwin	YEA
Shannon Gayk	YEA
David Parkhurst (Zoom)	YEA
Mitchell Owens (Zoom)	YEA
Megan Murphy	N/A

David will send a drafted letter to the EC for feedback and finalization via email.

#### 7. Reports from:

**Tree Commission (TC)**→ Dave: Emailed notes from the most recent Tree Commission meeting (May 15) to all of the Commissioners. An engineering presentation was delivered by Haskell Smith regarding the Miller Showers Gateway project. The plan is to plant a set of trees, grouped in bunches by species. The Tree Commission is pushing to create a more diversity across the area. Additional updates on tree removals along park trails and planting new trees.

**Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC)**→ Still not attending, as their meeting occurs at the same time as the Bloomington EC

**Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS)**→ Don: Putting together summaries of working groups; Still discussion on how EC and BCOS will coexist or be merged; Working to gather info at City and County levels for climate emergency actions (Meeting with IU Health, public health)

**Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)**→ Don: Forwarded notes from last meeting.

**Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC)**→ Dave: No update after the April meeting (Meeting in June)

**Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council (MPOCAC)**→Currently no EC members attend this meeting

**Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM)**→ Don: The Science Committee attended Eric Barefoot's talk (IU Earth and atmospheric sciences) at the Library which they found very interesting.

#### 8. Commissioner announcements:

- Linda updated the EC that the Sudbury Farm PUD that had been sunset is back on the table as a brand-new PUD application. It's now called Summit District PUD and is located on the southwest corner of town by Weimer and Tapp Rd. It will be a major-scale development that encompasses about 140 acres in the southwest quadrant of the municipal boundary. There are sinkholes, springs, creeks & riparian buffers, wetlands, and wooded areas on the property. Linda will set up a meeting to reconvene the ECPC and organize a site visit, too.

- Eco-Heroes last steps: The only remaining step is contacting people who haven't picked up their art or claimed their prizes.

- Due to the new commissioners, Carrie will send around Working Group opportunities

- Conner will be Zooming in for the next two months working at Jewel Cave National Monument (SD) giving tours

- Linda going on vacation in June (Katie Gondi of the Planning and Transportation department will attend in her place to facilitate the CATS component)

- Mike will also be out for the June meeting.

#### 9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

\* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: June 15, 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](mailto: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.