



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=ZStiRStsK21NNUthRnkwTINmZEEzd09>

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:
6:00pm EST July 20, 2023.

2. Introductions and Roll Call:

A. In person:

	IN PERSON	VIA ZOOM	NOT PRESENT
• Carrie Albright	X		
• Matt Caldie	X		
• Don Eggert	X		
• Shannon Gayk	X		
• Mike Litwin	X		
• Kristen Mann	X		
• Megan Murphy	X		
• Mitchell Owens	X		
• David Parkhurst	X		
• Karena Tankersley		X	
• Conner Wright			X
• Megan Bankowski		X	

The meeting was telecast live by CATS.

Staff present included Linda Thompson (Sr. Environmental Planner)

Introductions:

3. Approval of May 2023 minutes:*

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

A. Roll call vote

Approval of minutes by 9 votes, with 2 abstentions, and 1 not present

	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
• Carrie Albright	X			
• Matt Caldie	X			
• Don Eggert	X			
• Shannon Gayk	X			
• Mike Litwin	X			
• Kristen Mann			X	
• Megan Murphy			X	
• Mitchell Owens	X			
• David Parkhurst	X			
• Karena Tankersley	X			
• Conner Wright				X
• Megan Bankowski	X			

The EC moved to approve the May minutes.

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

No comment from the public.

5. Old business:

a. **Vote on sending email regarding UDO changes (Mike Litwin) ***

Mike read draft aloud as not all voting commission members received the document via email to read ahead of time.

David Parkhurst motion to send memo and Megan Murphy seconds the motion

Unanimous approval by present voting members of the commission:

	YEA	NAY	ABSTAIN	NOT PRESENT
• Carrie Albright	X			
• Matt Caldie	X			
• Don Eggert	X			
• Shannon Gayk	X			
• Mike Litwin	X			
• Kristen Mann	X			
• Megan Murphy	X			
• Mitchell Owens	X			
• David Parkhurst	X			
• Karena Tankersley	X			
• Conner Wright				X
• Megan Bankowski	X			

Who should be included on the email: Jackie Scanlan (Development Services Manager, Planning and Transportation), Matt Flaherty, Steve Cotter (Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation)

Who should send the email: Mike Litwin to send the email

6. New business:

a. Introduction to EC position on the environmental impacts of changes to road/trail through Lower Cascades Park

- The memo was sent by Scott Robinson, Director of Planning & Transportation to the Bloomington Common Council on 06/16/2023 and details four options to meet mobility needs of the area as part of the city's transportation and mobility goals and the tradeoffs regarding mobility, sustainability, environmental outcomes, steps to implement, and associated costs.
- Open discussion about the memo and key environmental impacts for each of the options
 - We could see some improvements of the stream as it currently has banks of hard protection/no riparian buffer
 - Need to consider potential for downstream flooding and if any of the options poses an increased risk. Option 4 would dechannelize the stream
 - We should consider the broader implications on the wildlife habitat corridor
 - We should consider impacts to mature native trees and shrubs
 - What are next steps? When is it best to provide guidance?
 - If we advocate now, we can start by ranking the options and once there is a plan, we can provide more detailed inputs. Once there is a decision on which option to proceed with, the design phase will begin
 -
- Do we Want to weigh in by 7/26? This topic will potentially come to council Wednesday 7/26
 - Megan Murphy moved to proceed with EC to weigh in at upcoming city council meeting on 7/26 and Carrie Albright seconds the motion.
 - Action: Linda will share template to use for 7/26 meeting. Packet goes out tomorrow 7/21 so our opinion would not be included in the packet. Grade on environmental protective merit.
 - Commission is okay to communicate via email to weigh in.
- Deadlines:
 - Linda to start memo 7/21
 - Comments by 7/23 EOD

b. Discussion about activating the water quality working group (Mitchell Owens)

- Who is interested in participating in the working group?
 - Show of hands: Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Donald Eggert, Megan Murphy, Shannon Gayk
 - Confirmed - group has been resurrected

7. Reports from:

- **Tree Commission (TC) - David Parkhurst**
 - Haskell Smith, urban forester report
 - Storms effects on city. ~200 reports
 - Mia Williams (IU) mostly cleanup. some structural damage from trees.

- Tree Care Manual - working on 5th edition.
- **Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC) - Megan**
 - No minutes posted since 9/2022
- **Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) - Donald Eggert**
 - Councilman Flaherty gave update (topic unclear)
 - Air quality issues due to wild fires
- **Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC) - David Parkhurst**
 - Griffy lake nature preserve master plan (88 pages) by Spectrum Trail Design.
 - County has several education events coming up
 - Bug Fest 9/23/23
 - Riverwatch
 - Weed wrangles
 - Miller-Showers Park management plan/area ponds
 - Park Ridge East management plan - open for updating. Goal is ecological restoration
 - Lesser Celandine cleanup
 - How to create a management plan for Leonard springs nature park.
- **Metropolitan Planning Organizing-Citizens Advisory Council (MPOCAC) - No Attendance**
 - No reports
- **Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM) - xx Overview, David Parkhurst**
 - No reports
- **Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) - Donald Eggert**
 - Program to identify jumping worms
 - Weed Wrangles continue
 - Workshop on glyphosates

8. Commissioner announcements:

- Dave Parkhurst: The phrase ‘100-year events’ and ones like it are now misleading because the climate is changing so rapidly
- Matt Caldie: removed large Callery pear near southeast park
- Megan Murphy: bug Fest 9/23/23 we will have EC table. 9/22 Bryan Park is a nature sounds event focused on katydids <https://bloomington.in.gov/parks/events/bug-fest>
- Donald Eggert: We are seeing an increase in emergency medical responses/deaths globally
- Dave Parkhurst: airnow.gov gives up to date information about current air quality. It is updated every hour. The Bloomington reading apparently comes from measurements at one of the local schools.

9. Adjournment:

Adjournment 7:34pm EST 7/20/2023, Matt Caldie motions. Multiple commissioners second the motion

* 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).*

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.