



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

March 21, 2024, 6:00 PM  
Hooker Meeting Room # 245  
Hybrid meeting

Join Zoom Meeting here:

<https://bloomington.zoom.us/j/6359441221?pwd=bXRYTnNJV2xMbTRLLeE00QW9XWnRjQT09>

Meeting ID: 635 944 1221

Passcode: COBPT

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: **6:02 pm**

2. Introductions and Roll Call:	<u>In person</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Zoom</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Megan Bankowski		X	
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Megan Murphy		X	
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Karena Tankersley	X		
Alauna Keeley	X		
Linda Thompson	X		

3. New officer nominations:\*

- Carrie Albright
- Megan Bankowski
- Matt Caldie
- Shannon Gayk

Mike Litwin  
Megan Murphy  
Mitchell Owens  
David Parkhurst  
Karena Tankersley

Mitchell, a part of the nominations committee, summarized nominations were Carrie for Chair, Matt for Vice Chair, and Karena for Secretary.

Mitchell moved to vote; Shannon seconded. All present voted yes.

4. Approval of February, 2024 minutes:*	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Megan Bankowski			
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk	X		
Mike Litwin	X		
Megan Murphy			
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Karena Tankersley	X		

David moved to vote; Shannon seconded. All present voted yes.

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

N/A

6. Old business:

A. Eco Heroes planning

Linda described the logistics of the Earth Day event that will contain the EcoHeroes contest. EcoHeroes will be the first event after Shawn Miya and the mayor speak.

Alauna mentioned that EcoHeroes has received about \$770 in donations so far, whereas last year \$1700 had been received at this time. She has reached out to community organizations and local media to advertise the event, and mentioned she still needs to advertise on social media.

Carrie asked what volunteer needs we have. Alauna and Linda agreed that having four volunteers last year was sufficient.

7. New business:

A. Nominations & vote on officers\*

B. Discussion and specific questions regarding the Climate Action Plan. Find at CAP webpage.  
<https://bloomington.in.gov/sustainability/2020-climate-action-plan>

Carrie mentioned that in the future, we will have Shawn Miya come discuss the CAP with the EC. Carrie recommended coming up with questions and feedback beforehand. Carrie mentioned that Shawn had asked for EC support in the meantime. Carrie opened a discussion about what portions of the CAP are worth EC time and attention.

The recommendations for what sections to pursue were as follows:

David - Greenspace and ecosystem health (Section 8)

Shannon - Water and wastewater (Section 5)  
Dave - Energy and the built environment (Section 3)  
Karena - Transportation and land use (Section 2)

Mike commented that goals and strategies end up shelved and recommended that action items are a better focus for discussion.

Many EC members agreed that a question to ask is whether there are data/ metrics that can be tracked to measure progress on the CAP.

Another question was why the transport and land use section is focused more on transportation than land use.

Matt shared that energy and built environment is 81% of the CAP.

Carrie summarized the importance to Shawn of the Zero in Bloomington dashboard and the stakeholders that have been reached out to, and says that Shawn is hoping for support finding ways to reach out about solar grant program and e-bike program.

Carrie gauged the EC's interest in outreach and engagement. Matt pointed out that Section 8 contained a goal about green corridors, including for pollinators, and directly mentions the EC's work on the subject. Shannon mentioned that this would be a good opportunity for outreach.

8. Reports from: Tree Commission (TC), Environmental Resource Advisory Council (ERAC), Friends of Lake Monroe (FOLM), Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS), Monroe County-Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS), Metropolitan Planning Organization, Citizens Advisory Council (MCMPOCAC), & Monroe County Environmental Commission (MCEC).

Dave

- Tree Commission: Did not attend meeting, and promised to send minutes.
- ERAC: No meeting.
- FoLM: Nothing new.

Karena

- BCOS: Discussed the Summit Development, a federal grant for the city's Beat the Heat program, and supporting urban gardening.

Linda

- MCIRS: Discussed a plant giveaway and sale, but other than that, there was nothing new.

9. Commissioner announcements:  
Working Group call-out

Carrie mentioned that she would be presenting the EC annual report and that April 5<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for sharing slides. She also mentioned the Garden Fair on April 13<sup>th</sup>, and Grandview STEM night on April 25<sup>th</sup> as upcoming outreach opportunities.

- Alauna signed up to go to Grandview and talk about Habitat Connectivity Plan, along with Carrie and Karena.

The EC collectively decided that the Garden Fair will not work this year.

Mitchell gave an update on the Water Quality Working Group: He received all of IDEM's water quality measurement data at the county level and mentioned there was a surprising amount of biodiversity in fish species. He also advertised the IN Academy of Science BioBlitz on June 8<sup>th</sup> at Big Oaks Wildlife Refuge.

Shannon advertised her research group on environmental arts and humanities and was looking for artists and reading group members.

Karenna invited EC members to a WIC at IU picnic on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Matt, Linda, and Shannon talked about the Summit Development and the recent plan commission meeting about it. Shannon mentioned there was a new IDS article about it that was good.

10. Adjournment: 6:58 pm

\* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: April 18, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, Zoom, and CATS

-The City is committed to providing equal access to information. However, despite our efforts, at times, portions of our board and commission packets are not accessible for some individuals. If you encounter difficulties accessing material in this packet, please contact Melissa Hirtzel at [hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:hirtzelm@bloomington.in.gov) and provide your name, contact information, and a link to or description of the document or web page you are having problems with.

-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.