



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 JUNE 2024 MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 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
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk		X	
Mike Litwin		X	
Adam Martinez		X	
Megan Murphy	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Gabby Robles			X
Karena Tankersley			X
Ryan, Interim City Liaison	X		

3. Approval of May, 2024 minutes:*	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Carrie Albright	X		
Megan Bankowski	X		
Nadia Cain	X		
Matt Caldie	X		
Shannon Gayk			X
Mike Litwin			X
Adam Martinez			X
Megan Murphy	X		
Mitchell Owens	X		
David Parkhurst	X		
Gabby Robles	X		
Karena Tankersley	X		

Megan M motioned to vote, David P. seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

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

N/A

5. Old business:

A. Cook 48 Resolution of Support\*

B. Bloomington Climate Action Plan (Guest: Shawn Miya, Assistant Director for Sustainability)

**A. Cook 48 Resolution**

Carrie summarized the context of Mike Emge’s Resolution of Support, and asked for input on whether this resolution was relevant to the EC’s goals. The project mentioned developing alternative transportation options for the west side of town.

Karena asked about whether or not the transportation project would be car-based or bus-based, and sought more details. Matt and Megan M. agreed that more details would be warranted before a vote on the resolution.

Nadia mentioned that she also wanted details on whether they will be measuring or tracking the environmental impact of this project.

Megan M. voiced tentative support.

Carrie recommended gathering questions for Chris, and voting on the resolution next month.

**B. Bloomington CAP Update**

Shawn Miya introduced herself and shared a presentation about a CAP implementation update. She described progress for each section of the CAP as follows:

Transportation & Land Use

- Regional task force created and planned study to be conducted on EV

charging.

- 2 EV chargers have been installed at Switchyard Park.
- They've made some progress with an E-Bike voucher program.
- They've done an electrification assessment with Duke Energy.
- Parks and Rec Dept. have made many electric equipment purchases.

### Energy & Built Environment

- They've installed solar for 10 nonprofits, and 10 small businesses.
- They've allocated 100s of thousands for solar programs, including low-income programs.
- They have created free energy audit programs for nonprofits and small businesses and have conducted a few audits.
- The city is in the middle of a multi-stage auditing process for city owned buildings for energy efficiency with Donovan (a consultant group).
- Received grant for city hall LED lighting retrofitting and looking to do energy efficiency projects with Buskirk Chumley Theater.
- They have revised the Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program.

### Waste Management

- They are looking for a local place to take compost.
- They've allocated funding to small solid waste projects.

### Local Food and Ag

- Grants have been allocated to local food and gardening organizations.
- Allocated funding to sustainable neighborhoods grant program and created an urban gardening implementation team.

### Health and Safety

- NOAA HeatWatch Campaign will be happening this summer, and is a citizen science initiative.
  - o They will also collect PM 2.5 data in collaboration with the EC.

### Health and Safety /// Green Space and Ecosystem

- They've allocated funding for tree plantings and bus stop shelters to create cool corridors, and given funding for Tree Tinders Program.
- Money allocated to a program to provide free AC window units to low income and medically vulnerable residents.
- Beat the Heat campaign has an implementation team tasked with creating a Heat Action Plan to prepare for heat wave emergencies.
- Funding allocated to a weatherization program as well.
- Shawn suggested the EC could provide assistance by advertising the city's Climate Talks.

### Climate Economy

- Project 46, a regional climate alliance, is working on regional GHG inventory.
- EPA has selected 6 out of 11 project ideas submitted under EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for the Project 46 cities.

David shared concern that the Tree Commission had not been spoken to about many of these projects, and Shawn was open to speaking to them in the future, though she had already spoken to Haskell Smith about these projects.

Nadia asked about reporting for the multi-phase Donovan auditing project and asked about official reporting on the CAP given that the goals were for 2030. Shawn answered that the dashboard displayed current progress and was a method of transparency. Shawn also mentioned that she gives annual updates to City Council on CAP progress.

Megan M. suggested reaching out to the Bloomington Commuter Club about the E-Bike program.

Carrie asked how many locations each pair will drive to for the HeatWatch Campaign, and Shawn answered that they will be 30-minute routes with the sensors starting data collection at 6am, 3pm and 7pm on the day of.

Carrie encouraged the EC to come up with suggested locations in the next week or two.

## 6. No new business

## 7. 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)

### David Parkhurst

- Tree Commission
  - Haskell Smith, the urban forester, couldn't make it to the meeting. Ray Major had been planting tree seedlings and placed protective rings/ fences around trees.
- ERAC
  - ERAC will be at BugFest, have Nature Days with students, have an insect monitoring citizen science program, and host weed wrangles.
  - They also spoke about the Asian Carp problem.
  - They discussed that the city will also have to pump Miller Showers soon for maintenance.
  - They discussed a welcome building for the city.
  - Someone asked about the environmental impact of homeless encampments.
- FOLM
  - Did not have a report this month for FOLM.

### Karena

- BCOS
  - Was unable to make it to this month's meeting, but will send minutes.

MCIRIS, MCMPOCAC, and MCEC – no one on the EC is currently attending.

## 8. Commissioner announcements:

Carrie - MLK Commission did a blurb on WFIB, and thinks the EC should do that as well, and will draft up a blurb for review.

Mitchell – Water working group discussed the Hoosier River Watch Data that was previously missing. They

have about 20 years of data at different locations in town.

Mitchell also suggested having a person in the EC to coordinate potential capstone projects with IU.

## 9. Adjournment: 7:32

\* Item to be voted on

Next EC meeting: July 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.