



**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.

**AGENDA**  
19 January 2017  
Bloomington Cooking School

1. Introduction

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Nick Kappas, Dave Debikey, David Parkhurst, Mike Litwin, Ramsay Harik, Chris Neggars, Sarah Green, Riley Zipper

Absent: Chaim Julian, Andy Marrs, Chad Roeder, Linda Thompson

Guests: 3 guests

2. New Business

a. Bucket list proposed projects (number of votes for project in parentheses)

- Habitat Network/Urban Greenspace plan (12)
  - This is an ongoing project, and it is about halfway to having a complete product.
  - The purpose is to identify significant greenspace areas that should be maintained and potential for links.
  - Outcome: written report with maps and recommendations, could finish in 2017
- Improve green building incentives (9)
  - Improve them in a way that developers will actually use them.
  - Outcome: better incentives in the UDO
- Collaborate with the Monroe County Environmental Commission on watershed protection (7)
  - This would involve education, awareness, and advocacy to protect the Lake Monroe watershed.
  - This would likely be a two-year project.
- Construction guidelines for tree protection (6)
  - The Tree Commission has an outline for the construction guidelines.
  - The EC would endorse and help with presenting.
  - Outcome: get legislation on the books with a penalty for not complying, could finish in 2017
- Get city to implement components of the BEAP (6)
  - This would involve advocacy to City Council
  - Outcome: get city to take action on some of the BEAP recommendations, results within the next few years

- Revive “Habitat Heroes” programs to designate eco-friendly yards (5)
  - This would be a transformation of the Lawns for Life program.
  - Because this would be an ongoing program, the EC should find someone else to run it, such as City Parks and Recreation.
  - Outcome: program in 2017
- Require recycling in apartment buildings (4)
  - We would also need a way to define recycling so it doesn’t go to an incinerator.
  - Outcome: explore issue and write statement in 2017, this could go on later
- Compost project (4)
  - This would be a continuation from this past year.
  - We need to get buy-in from restaurants and residents.
  - Outcome: curbside compost in Bloomington, pilot in 2017
- Mayor’s Monarch Pledge (3)
  - We need to get mayor to put full authority behind it.
  - This project is about halfway there.
  - Outcome: demonstration garden and agreement, could be done in 2017
- Provide a definition of “natural area” that is environmentally sound (1)
  - “Natural area” is used in the CMP a lot, but it is not defined.
  - This can be done quickly.
  - Outcome: report done in 2017
- Materials recovery facility (MRF) advocacy to City Council and Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (1)
  - We need buy-in from stakeholders.
  - Outcome: explore more, get started in 2017
- Promote stormwater drainage improvements to city and residents (1)
  - This would involve public education, outreach, and advocating for the city to do more.
  - Outcome: outreach in 2017, report to city in more than one year
- Source water protection and sustainability (0)
  - This would involve looking into or participating in exploration of Lake Monroe watershed.
  - Outcome: get involved in 2017
- Half of all lawns changed to vegetable gardens (0)
  - This project would address the importance of local food, and it would also require deer control.
  - Outcome 1: deer control recommendations, could be done in 2017
  - Outcome 2: gardens, public education, long-term, plan/explore in 2017, ways to incentivize, this would be a long-term project
- Update toxics list (0)
  - This would be an update of the contaminated sites in town.
  - Outcome: could update report in 2017, but would likely be a multi-year project
- b. Working groups
  - i. The EC will defer addressing working groups to the next meeting.
- c. Election of officers
  - i. Presentation of officers
    1. Chair: Nick Kappas
    2. Vice Chair: Mike Litwin
    3. Treasurer/Secretary: Dedaimia Whitney

- ii. Motion to accept recommendations for officers.
          - 1. Voice vote: all yes.
    - d. Recruitment
      - i. There are three vacancies for the EC. Commissioners can make recommendations and reach out to prospective commissioners.
  - 3. Announcements
    - a. The next meeting is currently scheduled at the same time as the mayor's state of the city address.
      - i. Motion to look into changing the date of the February EC meeting.
        - 1. Voice vote: all yes.
    - b. Nick will be meeting with the mayor soon.
4. Adjournment