



**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.

**MINUTES**

23 March 2017; 7:00 p.m.

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)  
Present: Nick Kappas, Ramsay Harik, Andy Marrs, Linda Thompson, Dedaimia Whitney, Chris Neggars, Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Chaim Julian, Riley Zipper, Sarah Green  
Absent: Dave Debikey  
Guests: Ellen Jacquart, Ethan Horvath
2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)  
Approved by voice vote: all yes
3. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)  
No public comment
4. Presentation (7:30-8:00 p.m.)  
Ellen Jacquart - "Growing Native" Certificate Program and Monroe County - Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS)
  - MC-IRIS is a partnership to reduce the environmental and economic impact of invasive species in Monroe County through education and action.
  - MC-IRIS has many partners, including with the city, private businesses, nonprofits, and private landowners.
  - Their website is [www.mc-iris.org](http://www.mc-iris.org).
  - One of the major invasive species in the area is Asian bush honeysuckle, and it invades forest, prairie, and wetlands; decreases understory diversity; decreases tree seedlings and canopy growth; and increases ticks.
  - MC-IRIS has done the following:
    - Adopted 5 kudzu sites in the county
    - Worked with the city to replace Callery Pear along the B-line
    - Provided free landowner surveys
    - Produced and disseminated educational information
    - Mapped and controlled at Dunn Woods for wintercreeper
    - Held a neighborhood awareness campaign and competition, work day, help removing invasives, and free native plants
    - Hosted Sustaining Nature and Your Land Day
      - This year the event will be June 20 2017 at City Hall
  - Among the top invasives in the county, almost all were deliberate introductions.
  - MC-IRIS started the program "Go Green, Grow Native"

- This program recognizes growers that offer native plants
- They got plant growers involved in the program.
- There is a basic membership for those that sell some native plants and also an invasive-free membership for those that do not sell any invasive plants.
- The Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society (INPAWS) adopted this program, expanded it statewide, and changed it to “Grow Native.”
- They are in the process of signing up businesses online now.
- How the Environmental Commission can help Grow Native:
  - Promote in Monroe County
    - Share information with other boards and commissions
    - Post a link to the Grow Native website on the Environmental Commissions webpage
    - Write a press release to promote new parts of the program
    - Create and distribute a brochure/flyer
  - Provide funding for Grow Native materials for businesses
    - They want more materials like yard signs, but MC-IRIS does not have funding for this now.
- Questions/Discussion
  - General Mills recently gave out free seeds packets some of which included nonnative plants. Grow Native is educating through their Facebook group.
  - It’s best to avoid wildflower mixes as many will include some nonnatives, annuals, and they may not even do well.
  - The Monroe County Environmental Commission has not expressed much interest in being involved with Grow Native.

5. Committee reports & discussions (electronic) (8:00-8:05 p.m.)

6. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (**B cycle**)  
(Bypass for Old Business Bucket List Projects)

7. Old business (8:05-9:00 p.m.)

A. Bucket List Committee Reports

- Waste/Hazards
  - Projects
    - Composting
      - The committee pick composting to be their project, but will pick up the others if there is time.
      - Some of the work is exploratory, such as talking to neighborhoods about a pilot project.
    - MRF advocacy
      - They need to figure out who would be best to talk to about a MRF.
    - Recycling in apartments
      - Isabelle Piedmont-Smith is working on an ordinance for apartment recycling.
      - They still need to define recycling so that it doesn’t include incinerating.
  - Riley is working on putting together binders of all EC projects.
- Water
  - Projects
    - Habitat network plan
      - The committee will be working on streams, corridors, and buffers for the network plan.

- This works with the CMP.
    - Other potential projects
      - They can work on a definition in UDO for a riparian buffer protection ordinance.
      - They can work on a classification system and inventory of streams.
    - Watershed protection for Lake Monroe
      - It's not obvious what they could do, since most of the watershed is outside of Bloomington.
  - Biodiversity
    - Projects
      - Habitat network plan
        - They estimate that it will be done mid-summer.
        - They need help coming up with a good name for it.
        - They want to present to city council. The best time for this is probably over the summer.
      - Monarch initiative
        - This will take about a month.
        - They need to have a meeting with the mayor and determine what the mayor's actions will be.
        - They also need to get updated data on the monarch data for this year.
      - Lawns for Life
        - They will talk in the fall about developing a replacement program.
    - ECPC/Planning Commission
      - ECPC hasn't talked about goals for this year.
      - Linda wants more input from people on the committee and more people on the committee.
      - Pushing the BEAP forward
        - Linda wrote a lot of the BEAP action items for the CMP.
- B. CMP Notes "Environmental Chapter Policies, Goals, & Programs"
  - The CMP is going to the copy editor.
  - The topic of food is very limited in CMP.
    - Food is issue of land use and public health/safety.
    - The mayor did mention food in state of the city.
  - Comments can be emailed to Scott Robinson and the Plan Commission.
  - Nick and Linda will figure out what the EC can do to contribute to the CMP and email everyone.
- C. Eco-Heroes Update
  - There has been one submission so far, but most will come in right around the deadline.
  - Over \$800 in cash and prizes has been donated.
  - The awards ceremony will be Saturday, April 22 at 10 am in the Council Chambers.
  - The EC birthday party will not coincide with the Eco-Heroes ceremony. Later in the summer or fall will be a better time.
8. Commissioner announcements (9:00-9:15 p.m.)
- Nick
    - Nick will be meeting with mayor in the next couple of weeks about the open positions and people that have applied. He will also bring up the budget and environmental

priorities.

- The EC should write a guest editorial about native pollinators and plants.
- Discussion
  - Does the EC want to work with MC-IRIS or INPAWS on Grow Native mission?
    - It may be best to not take a side on chemicals, because the EC doesn't want to lose supporters. One option would be to just support Grow Native and not necessarily MC-IRIS.
  - Two meeting rule
    - Don't vote on things that aren't on the agenda.
    - Since the EC follows Robert's Rules, then the EC can add items to the agenda at the beginning and approve it.
  - Tabled votes
    - Dedaimia moves to authorize Nick and others to write a guest column regarding pollinators for native plants and to authorize Sarah and Dedaimia to draft a bookmark in support of the Grow Native program.
    - Seconded by David
    - The vote is tabled until the next meeting.
- Ramsay- Deep Roots Garden Center is opening next month with native plants.
- Dedaimia- The city is celebrating its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday next year, and Parks and Recreation want to expand Arbor Day and have a massive tree planting.
- Chaim- On Friday, Democracy for Monroe County is hosting the author Thomas Frank who will be speaking at the School of Education auditorium at 6:30 pm.

#### 9. Adjournment (9:15 p.m.)

#### Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 20 April, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 29 March, & 6 April, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 19 April, 9:30 a.m., Rose Hill
- D. BCOS meeting: 11 April, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 12 April, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 12 April, 4:30 p.m., Cascades
- G. MPO CAC: 26 April, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey
- H. MCSWMD Board: 13 April, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse