



**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

20 April 2017

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

- A. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)
- Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Kristina Wiltsee, Riley Zipper, Ramsey Harik, Andy Marrs, Mike Litwin, Chris Neggars, Dani Graf, Chaim Julian, David Parkhurst, Sarah Green, Dave Debikey, Linda Thompson
 - Absent: Nick Kappas
 - Guests: Jacqui Bauer, Ethan Horwath
 - Welcome New Commissioners Dani Graf and Kristina Wiltsee!
 - Kristina - used to be a chemist, project manager currently
 - Dani - works in landscaping at Nature's Way, starting new business in landscaping and composting
- B. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)
- Motion to approve the minutes. All in favor, no opposed, no abstentions.
- C. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)
- Jacqui Bauer - Any plans for the EC to update the GHG inventory?
 - Not currently any plans to do so
 - Partial data in BEAP
 - Jacqui might have an "ex-tern" from the IUOS (IU Office of Sustainability) work on one over the summer
- D. Presentation (7:30-8:00 p.m.)
- Phil Stevens, SPEA, "Bloomington Air Pollution Research"
 - Was member of IN air pollution control board, but resigned when they were merged with other boards
 - Ozone:
 - Health effects:
 - Short-term exposure leads to respiratory distress
 - However, the body can recover in the short term
 - Most vulnerable groups include people who work outside, children, and the elderly
 - NAAQ Standards over time
 - 1979: 0.12 ppm 1 hr avg
 - 1997: 0.08 ppm 8 hr avg
 - 2008: 0.075 ppm 8 hr avg

- 2015: 0.070 ppm 8 hr avg (though the scientific community believes it should be 0.065)
 - If counties don't meet the standard, they are in non-attainment and federal funds become restricted
 - Lots of incentive for states to meet these standards
 - But not a monitor in every county
 - EPA has requirements based on population but states can put monitors where they want to
 - No monitor in Bloomington for ozone
- People living in counties in non-attainment
 - 150 million people in 2002 were breathing unhealthy air
 - 130 million in 2008
 - 142 million in 2012
 - Mostly from ozone, but also some PM2.5
- Challenge of ozone is that it's a secondary pollutant
- Control strategies
 - Reduction from transportation (Clean Air Act 1970)
 - Cleaner burning gas (CAAA 1990)
 - NOx limits for power plants and industrial combustion (CAIR 2005)
 - Enhanced vehicle inspection programs, (CAAA 1990)
 - Control of non-combustion VOC emissions
 - CO and lead has dropped significantly since 1970
 - Eastern US has had difficult time with ozone, and a few counties in IN including Greene have been non-attainment recently
- CAIR
 - Required power plants to reduce NOx with cap and trade, mostly in the eastern US
 - Dramatic reduction in NOx as a result
 - Challenged in court by NC, revised in 2015 to Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), adding additional states and changing caps
- In 2012, almost every county in IN was in attainment
 - But standard was lowered in 2015 to 0.070
- In IN, ozone isn't measured everywhere, but it is in the most dense areas
 - Not in Bloomington, but in some surrounding counties
 - However, PM2.5 is measured in Bloomington
 - The data is sent to IDEM remotely, but workers are sent to the site for calibration
 - Data for ozone in Bloomington is available, but it's based on the monitors in the surrounding counties
 - Only measured ozone above the standard twice in 2015
 - In 2016, three times
 - When ozone is going to be high, people are usually notified through the radio; these are often called "Ozone Action Days"
 - Air quality in Bloomington has improved over time - only 3 days in 2016 over the 0.070 ppm standard
 - A project in summer 2015 at the IU Research and Teaching Preserve lab measured ozone directly in Bloomington -- Indiana Radical, Reactivity, and Ozone Production InterComparison 2015 (IRRONIC)
 - 8 hour average got close to the standard a few days, but didn't go above
 - These results aligned with the monitors in the surrounding counties, which suggests they do a pretty good job of estimating air quality in Bloomington
- Ozone and its precursors can be transported from place to place by the wind, sometimes very far (China to the western US isn't unheard of)
- Factors that affect photochemical smog
 - Sunlight
 - Ozone production is typically higher in IN during the summer
 - But PM2.5 can be high in the winter months due to lower temperatures

- Meteorology
 - Higher wind speeds can disperse emissions precursors
- Transport
 - Lifetime of ozone and its precursors are long enough to be transported regionally and even globally
- On Ozone Action Days, you should:
 - Reduce the trips you take in your car
 - Use public transport
 - Don't go through the drive through
 - Refuel in the evening so evaporated gas will be dispersed before forming ozone
 - Reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use
 - Conserve energy
 - Don't use a gas-powered lawnmower
- More info
 - IDEM Smog Watch: <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/pages/smogwatch/index.htm>
 - IDEM Office of Air Quality: <http://www.in.gov/idem/airquality/index.htm>
 - EPA Office of Air and Radiation: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-air-and-radiation-oar>
 - EPA Air Data: <https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data>

E. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (**B cycle**) (8:00-8:15 p.m.)

A Cycle

- a. ECPC/Planning Commission
- b. Waste/Hazards
- c. Water

B Cycle

- d. Outreach
 - Currently involved in Eco-Heroes
 - 75 or so entries, awards ceremony is Saturday at 10 in Chambers
- e. ECPC/Planning Commission
 - Only two developments heard at last Plan Commission meeting
 - Kinser Pike development approved conditionally
 - Development on Washington between 3rd and 4th (Fifth/Third Bank) was denied, which will be controversial
- f. Biodiversity
 - Habitat conservation plan (phase 1) is the group's major project at the moment and is nearly complete
 - Paula McDevitt (Parks) is planning bicentennial, and she seemed interested in the habitat plan and establishing a Pioneer Forest
 - A potential collaboration could be in expanding the protected areas in Phase 2

F. Old business (8:15-8:30 p.m.)

- a. Voting on Support of Grow Native Program
 - Motion from Dedaimia from the last meeting that was tabled until this meeting: "To authorize Nick and others to write guest column, and Dedaimia and Sarah/Riley to draft an informational and promotional bookmark in support of program."
 - Share other information, post link to website, press release, funding for signs, etc. were all things that Ellen asked from us
 - Not sure if we can give them money, but we can produce a bookmark or other literature
 - Might want to do something to get the community aware of the program itself
 - Ellen might want to partner with us on ways to increase awareness of the program
 - Vote to approve the motion: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

- b. Eco Heroes
 - Discussed above in Outreach working group report

- G. New business (8:30-9:15 p.m.)
 - a. Comprehensive Master Plan Response (Riley will send finalized amendments to Scott Robinson)
 - The amendments below were modified during the discussion.
 - Amend. 2:
 - Synopsis: “Produce will be greatly compromised” should be the language, because it won’t be completely eliminated if we don’t have pollinators
 - Amendment: “Greatly influence” crop production
 - Amend. 4: Tango to “entangled”
 - Amend. 6: Increase to “increasing”; tangible to “measureable”
 - Amend. 9: “encourage” as opposed to eliminate neighborhood association policies prohibiting clothesline bans, etc.
 - Not sure the legality of overruling neighborhood associations, so it would be safer to just say encourage
 - Amend. 11: Rather than a compost facility, convert leaf pickup service with leaves that go to Green Earth to leaf composting service provided by the city
 - We could direct this to the waste committee
 - It’s pretty costly to do the pickup anyway, so they could compost it then sell it back to residents as compost
 - “City should convert the end use of the leaves picked up in the fall to leaf compost for city residents.”
 - Maintains control of leaves on city property, manage them there to produce leaf mold to sell to residents.
 - Makes more sense to do it in a centralized way without much cost
 - Amend. 12: “Rezone as agriculture”
 - Vote to approve our proposed amendments: 9 in favor, no opposed, no abstentions
 - b. New Commissioner Orientation to Working Groups
 - Riley distributed intro binders, which give information about working group topics, projects, and meetings
 - New commissioners are encouraged to attend working group meetings to see which ones may be a good fit

- H. Commissioner announcements and Adjournment (9:15-9:20 p.m.)
 - Dedaimia: Tree Commission said there was a complaint from the EC about pear trees along the B-Line. Some have been removed, but there are a lot in neighborhoods too. They’re well aware of the problem but don’t have a lot of staff working on it. City hasn’t been planting pear trees for a long time.
 - Chaim: Will the PowerPoint for the BEAP be lengthened? **We will add this to the agenda for the next meeting.**
 - Chris: Wildflower Foray event next weekend (Apr. 28, 29, and 30) in Brown County.
 - Kristina: Due date for her baby is next EC meeting (congrats!) so she may miss it.

Meeting times:

- A. Planning Committee: 26 April, & 11 May, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- B. Tree Commission: 17 May, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- C. BCOS: 9 May, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- D. MCEC: 10 May, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- E. ERAC: 14 June, 4:30 p.m., Winslow
- F. MPO CAC: 26 April, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey
- G. MCSWMD Board: 11 May, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III room, Courthouse
- H. Environmental Commission: 18 May, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall