



**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**

15 June 2017

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:05-7:10 p.m.)

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Nick Kappas, Dave Debikey, Chris Negggers, Dani Graf,  
Chaim Julian, David Parkhurst, Ryan Clemens

Absent: Linda Thompson, Mike Litwin, Ramsay Harik, Andy Marrs, Riley Zipper

Guests: Terri Porter (Planning and Transportation Department Director),

2. Approval of minutes (7:10-7:11 p.m.)

Motion is made to approve minutes. Voice vote - all in favor, no opposed or abstaining

3. Public comment (7:11-7:11 p.m.)

i. none

4. Presentation (7:11-7:40)

A. Terri Porter, Director, City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department

- Started April 10, 2017 as Planning and Transportation Department Director. She is a longtime resident of Bloomington, moved, came back (a “Bloomerang”). She is wanting to bring stability to the position and the department. Spoke about new comprehensive plan and how the UDO relates. Interested in splitting UDO into 3 phases. She said the RFP went out in early June so the City can get a consultant to help with writing the UDO. She mentioned that the City may be looking into having an architectural vision so the City can say what they want. This may mean more restrictions coming to the downtown area partially due to and in response to developers’ simple plans. No architect nor design personnel is on staff in Planning Department.
- Dani brought up WELL building initiative, similar to LEED. Terri, says it is part of the new comprehensive plan, which is not passed yet. The Common Council must pass new ordinances - the draft is a lengthy process with lots of participation. With that said, Terri hopes that it will pass quickly with a shorter timeframe for public comment.
- David had a question about fence height on corners. Terri realizes that this ordinance is unpopular and further mentioned that the particular ordinance will probably be revisited.
- David had a question about food stands in private yards. The Planning and Transportation Department hasn’t looked into this issue yet.
- Nick had a question about the thoroughfare plan regarding safety. Terri said she would love to see more split pedestrian/bike lanes on sidewalks. She realizes the

debate and wonders how a better solution can be addressed in the new ordinance. One aspect to look into may be how best to coordinate with IU's bike transportation plan.

- Chris went over the Habitat Conservation Plan with Terri.
- Chaim had question about the City hiring an architect. Terri says that it may be more important to get multiple bids instead of ideas from just one designer.

5. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (**B cycle**) (7:40-8:00 p.m.)

**A Cycle**

- A. ECPC/Planning Commission
- B. Waste/Hazards
- C. Water

**B Cycle**

- D. Outreach
- E. ECPC/Planning Commission
- F. Biodiversity

**B Cycle**

- Outreach
  - Not much going on. Riley has taken Sarah's draft for invasive species and Dedaimia will be responding to him shortly
- ECPC/Planning Commission
  - There were a couple petitions in early June. The Council has a break in July and Nick will go to the August meeting. Not convinced that water will be managed properly. The EC will be requesting the denial of that in the PUD. The property values of this land are low, and this is desirable to some for the development of new affordable housing units. Those not in favor of this say they are interested in this, but not at the expense of the environment. It was outvoted. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are going to be put in the UDO with the goal of trying to make ADUs easier to pass in the new UDO. The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) was discussed in regard to ADU developments. It was further discussed that ADUs may be an easier, and definitely a cheaper, method to bring people to, or back to, Bloomington. CONA met every Monday in June, and a final vote was on June 26. It was approved. This may now be an aspect to include in the Bloomington Environmental Action Plan (BEAP).
  - Question by David - Are deer addressed in the BEAP? ERAC spoke about deer and is trying to recommend the deer culling again.
- Biodiversity
  - Meeting held in early June.
  - The Habitat Conservation Plan is out for suggestions and edits. Riley has done a great job drafting the Plan. The EC should be there when either Riley or another Biodiversity Working Group member presents it to the City Council. The earliest this will get on the docket is August.
  - The Bloomington Monarch Project (BMP) is moving ahead quickly. Ryan sent out a draft of the BMP in an email to the EC last week asking for their suggestions, edits and other comments by July 14 at the latest in order for them to be considered for the next draft of the Project. The goal is for the final draft of this Project to be completed and voted upon in July and it will be discussed further at the next EC meeting.

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

- A. Comprehensive Master Plan response/update
  - a. ongoing
- B. BEAP Outreach Plan

- a. Riley and Sarah developed the PowerPoint. Riley added slides to the end of document that can be changed for specific meetings and presentations.
  - b. Do we want to go out to other commissions to discuss the BEAP to get it out there?
    - i. Everyone is in favor. Chaim wants to present it to his group.
    - ii. Send Dedaimia and Nick a list of to whom you would like to present to.
7. New business (8:05-8:25 p.m.)
- A. Paris Agreement OpEd
    - a. Lots of mayors of cities and towns (and even states) want to continue on with the Paris Agreement. Mayor Hamilton has committed Bloomington to this pledge. Chris said that we should inform the city more about this, and how the City is going to go about this commitment a reality. Nick will write this.
  - B. Mayor's Monarch Pledge
    - a. Draft of the Bloomington Monarch Project is near complete. Ryan sent this out last week. Feedback to Ryan would be appreciated by July 14. His email is clemensr@bloomington.in.gov.
  - C. Habitat Network Slide Presentation Development
    - a. Next phases to come soon, as Habitat Conservation Plan is nearing completion
  - D. Do we want to devise a branding scheme (fonts, colors, formatting, etc.) for the EC? The Outreach Working Group will start looking into this.
  - E. Participation in the recycling event in Indianapolis may be out for the year.
8. Commissioner announcements and adjournment (8:25-8:30 p.m.)
- Chris - Joanna Sparks attended the Biodiversity Working Group. She will start now to revise invasive and spraying practices.
- David - Has 32 new solar panels on his roof! Meter is finally going down and great progress is being made.
- Nick: Kristina is moving to Atlanta so she unfortunately is having to resign from the EC.

#### Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: Doodle Poll for next meeting time went out. It will be scheduled for **18 July, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall**
- B. Planning Committee: 28 June, & 13 July, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 28 June & 19 July, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 11 July, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 12 July, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 9 August, 4:30 p.m., Sherwood Oaks
- G. MPO CAC: 28 June, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey Room
- H. MCSWMD Board: 13 July, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse