



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

Tuesday, 18 July 2017

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Approval of Agenda
No additions to agenda. Approved by voice vote. No abstentions.
2. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)
Present: Nick Kappas, Linda Thompson, Riley Zipper, Andy Marrs, Ramsay Harik, Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Chaim Julian, Ryan Clemens, Dedaimia Whitney
Absent: Dave Debikey, Dani Graf, Chris Negggers
Guests: Natalie Draper (Parks & Rec)
3. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)
No additions to June's minutes. Approved by voice vote. No abstentions.
4. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)
No public comment.
4. Presentation (7:30-8:00)
~~Dave Rollo, "Redefining Prosperity: Energy Decent and Community Resilience"~~
Councilmember Dave Rollo was scheduled to present but didn't make it.
5. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (A cycle) (8:00-8:15 p.m.)
A Cycle
 - A. ECPC/Planning Commission
 - Switchyard Park subdivision
 - Part of Switchyard (the triangle in the plans) will be zoned from Industrial to Institutional
 - Square adjacent to triangle will be zoned to Residential
 - Switchyard Park
 - Variance will be sought - because it's within a floodplain
 - Creek will have 75-foot riparian buffer
 - Permeable pavers will be utilized
 - Tech Park
 - Subdivision
 - Tassis has decided to move their HQ here (from the west side)
 - Subdivision will be adjacent to the Tassis lot
 - No plans yet
 - Planning Commission

- 3rd and Grant property will now be discussed at the August meeting
 - Developer wants to tear down houses here and build two four-story apartment buildings geared toward students
- Approved a new apartment complex at Sare Rd. and Canada Dr., near Jackson Creek MS
 - Acquired 5-acre property, but just building on one acre
 - Floodplain is near here; the property backs up to the woods and near the creek
- Comprehensive Master Plan
 - Voted on and approved in June by Planning Commission
 - Will go to Council in October or November
 - We have some Councilmembers in line with the EC's mission
 - We missed some opportunity in the Environmental/Land Use sections to expand urban agriculture
 - The Council may change some things, and if so, the changes will go back to Planning Commission and they get to deliberate on it, then send it back to the Council, which has final say
 - One last amendment was added to prevent new student housing from being built downtown
 - CMP is merely a guiding document – not like the municipal code or the UDO, so the UDO is what we should really focus on

B. Waste/Hazards

- Dani provided an update on Waste in the email she sent before the meeting

C. Water

- No meeting this month, but will meet next month

~~B Cycle~~

~~D. Outreach~~

~~E. ECPC/Planning Commission~~

~~F. Biodiversity~~

6. Old business (8:15-8:45 p.m.)

A. BEAP outreach plan

- List of organizations to present to:
 - Bloomingfoods
 - League of Women Voters
 - Democracy for Monroe County
 - Bloomington Food Policy Council
 - Bike/Ped Safety Commission
 - Monroe County EC
 - BCOS
 - Tree Commission
 - MPO
 - P&T
 - Utilities
 - Schools
- It would be a good idea to tailor the slides to the organizations
- Riley will send the slides to the Commission again
- Do's and Don'ts will come from Nick
- Nick also wrote a script when he gave the presentation to the Council, which he will send out
- The Steering Committee will meet in August to come up with some specific action items that can be adapted from the BEAP to propose for legislation

B. Paris Agreement Op/Ed

- Mayor Hamilton has joined a large group of mayors who have committed to upholding the Paris Agreement, despite President Trump removing us from it
 - Nick is planning to write it in the next month and present it at the August meeting
- C. Mayors' Monarch Pledge
- The Council doesn't have to do much, but they should probably get notice of it nonetheless
 - The EC just needs to approve it and then it can go to the Mayor
 - Mayor Hamilton is willing to devote some funding to Parks for the Pledge, but it's not clear what it will fund
 - The Proclamation would ideally be on the day of a big event, or at least at the Farmers' Market
 - The report is quite long at present, so Ryan may work on paring it down a little
 - The EC is a Responsible Party on many of the action items, which could stretch the Commission—especially Linda—a little thin
 - Since the Mayor has already committed to devoting funds for the project, some of the rationale and background information may be superfluous
 - We could shorten the action items we're already doing
 - The Commission agrees that a Proclamation at the Farmers' Market in September would be the best place to do it, because the students would be back and the Market is usually busy in September
- D. Habitat network slide presentation development
- Riley will make some slides for the Commission to vote on at the August meeting
 - Bike/Ped and Planning Commission could be very interested in hearing a presentation
 - Beth Rosenbarger, the Bike/Ped Coordinator at Planning, approached Riley to make a presentation at Bike/Ped Commission in September
 - We need to think about drafting some legislation to go along with the slides and the report
7. New business (8:45-8:50 p.m.)
- A. Midyear review for August
- At last year's July meeting, EC did a review of what they've been doing during the year
 - We should do this again: in August, come with
 - Your opinion of what we've done well this year
 - What we can do better
 - How you see yourself in the commission and how you can be more involved
 - Nick will send out a template
 - We may do it at Dedaimia's house
- B. New Commissioner via mayoral appointee
- Mary Catherine Carmichael, from OotM, reached out to Nick and asked for a list of recommendations for new commissioners
 - We should expect to have a new commissioner soon
 - Kristina has resigned because her family is moving to Georgia, so we will hopefully get a Council-appointed commissioner soon too
8. Commissioner announcements and adjournment (8:50-8:55 p.m.)
- Ryan: Probably will be his last meeting
 - Dedaimia: She has a quilting show at the MC Convention Center in August
 - Dave P.: If anyone knows how to get 100' of barbed wire, let him know
 - Chaim: There will be a Medicare for All march July 24 at 6 PM, which begins at the entrance of the Rose Hill cemetery, goes down 4th St., then to the Courthouse
 - Nick: Tim Mayer is stepping down at the Council. Nick was thinking of running, but because he's on the Planning Commission and chair of the EC, he won't. He'll instead be running in 2019. So we should be thinking about how to continue being effective into 2018 and beyond.

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 17 August, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 26 July, & 10 August, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 29 July & 16 August, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS: 8 August, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. Monroe County EC.: 9 August, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 9 August, 4:30 p.m., Sherwood Oaks
- G. MPO CAC: 23 August, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey
- H. MCSWMD Board: 10 August, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse