



**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

19 October 2017

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00-7:05 p.m.)

Present: Nick Kappas, Andy Marrs, Linda Thompson, Erin Hatch, Dave Debikey, Dedaimia Whitney, Chaim Julian, Chris Neggars, Mike Litwin, Ramsay Harik, Matt Caldie

Absent: David Parkhurst

Guests: City Councilmembers Dave Rollo and Isabel Piedmont-Smith, four other guests

Erin Hatch is the new EC intern. She's from San Francisco, in SPEA as a dual MPA/MSES student.

2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)

Motion to approve the Sept. minutes was made: 8 in favor, none opposed, 1 abstention. The minutes are approved.

3. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)

Maddie Waters (age 8): Here because she loves the environment and wants to help people.

Councilmember Dave Rollo:

- Councilmember Rollo appreciates the memo we wrote about the Crescent Rd. project. It was a tough call, even though the Council voted to pass it. He's hoping that substantial greenspace will be retained on that parcel.
- Councilmember Rollo also mentions a recent report from Germany was released that showed that in 27 years, the flying insect populations has fallen 70%. He urges us to check it out.
- In the CMP, the Council is reviewing the Environmental chapter. A number of the Council noted that there wasn't a reference to climate change in the CMP, so they have a number of amendments they've offered to address this. Councilmember Piedmont-Smith has an amendment to make climate change part of a goal, the language of which was taken from the BEAP.
- There will be a hearing on this chapter and others next Tuesday at 6:30. There will likely be more opportunities to make amendments and provide input down the line, but he urges us to come to the hearing.
- The Council will also be revisiting the PUD process soon, which could alleviate (or heighten) some of the conflict between affordable housing and environmental protection.

4. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (A cycle) (7:30-7:50 p.m.)

A Cycle

A. ECPC/Planning Commission

- ECPC
 - Urban Station II
 - Planning on changing the development in a large way with final revision next week.
 - Public Investment Corp.
 - This case has already been heard, but they will likely have many changes for next week as well.
 - TMC Bloomington
 - Located at 121 W. Kirkwood.
 - The parking lot next to the CVS - the project will be a 5-story mixed-use building.
 - Floors 2-5 will be condos: large and expensive.
 - There will be 22 units, geared toward professionals, professors, etc.
 - Are allowed to build out to the property lines, which they are doing.
 - Green initiatives are pretty weak, like many we've seen before downtown.
 - ECPC memo will likely end up saying that green building features need to be better.
 - Could involve removing two street trees, an elm and a non-native tree.
 - Doesn't make sense that when someone builds downtown, they get to take out the trees.
 - Use variance to put a barber shop near the current hospital, which is in a district zoned Hospital.
 - Boys & Girls club on Lincoln
 - Historic building that they want to add on to.
 - In doing that, they will have new landscaping, including parking lot buffer plants.
 - Linda is unsure if the parking lot will be expanded, so she will find out.
 - Parking lot (Red lot) on the north side of City Hall
 - City is doing a swap of land – swapping Solution Tree's property with the northern half of the City's parking lot.
 - The parking lot for Solution Tree would be best if it was incorporated into the Trades District, so they want to "neaten up the margins."
 - Linda has a few questions about erosion control, but it likely won't be a big deal.
 - Will be changing some plants out, but so far they all look good.
- Plan Commission
 - One project on 3rd street adjacent to where Rachel's Café used to be.
 - Another project that was approved is an affordable housing project behind Rose Hill Cemetery.
 - Next meeting is Nov. 13, which will be a long one.

B. Waste/Hazards

- Waste/Hazards is working with Outreach on branding.

C. Outreach*

- Proposal to develop standardized templates for correspondence, outreach, and reports, so everything would have a similar look and feel.
- Our own logo, standard typeface, and a color pallet.
- Three typefaces were suggested: Georgia, Trebuchet, Candara, and a logo designed by Matt
- Color proposals are "city" blue, white, and some shade of green
- A commissioner said that Candara is a little hard to read
- Trebuchet is what we use in our agenda and minutes, and it's sans-serif, so it's generally easier to read.
- Colors: blue is a plus and a minus, because it looks a lot like the city's.

- The logo has pretty sharp edges, and the maple leaf is difficult to recognize, so it should maybe be softened up.
- We could also have the butterflies be a different color so they can stand out.
- Linda will ask how we can get this approved and how far we have to run it up the food chain.
- Also, put it on your to-do list to make comments on the logo.

D. Water

- Meeting is postponed until next Friday (10/27).
- One item will be about Friends of Lake Monroe, which has a lot of experts and faculty on the committee.
- They'll be updating the master plan for Lake Monroe.
- They've advocated against a bill that would affect how logging occurs is regulated in the county.
- Could be a good idea to have one of their members make a presentation to us.

~~B. Cycle~~

~~E. Outreach~~

~~F. ECPC/Planning Commission~~

~~G. Biodiversity~~

5. Old business (7:50-8:15 p.m.)

A. Environmental chapter of CMP

- Good amendments from the BEAP were included in the CMP.
- Next Tuesday, Nick will speak on behalf of the EC when these amendments come up.
- How can the EC help the Council?
 - Councilmember Piedmont-Smith: the Environmental chapter is good, but the most problematic part is the overview, which is overly simplistic and broad. A goal to reduce GHG emissions should also be included.
- The Commission feels that food and deer are lacking.
- What do we want to say about deer?
 - Urban deer are a significant problem in the city, so there could be some ways to keep them off private property and out of gardens.
 - Dedaimia: there are also people who feed the deer and put out salt licks, which is a problem and drives them into the neighborhood.
 - Should it be in the housing and neighborhoods section then?
 - Ramsay says no, because they're compromising self-sufficiency of citizens because they can't plant vegetables, and they also compromise biodiversity and carry disease, including the ticks that carry lyme disease.

B. Land use amendments to include in Habitat Network Report

- Riley and Erin have been working together on brainstorming land use ordinances that can be used to implement the habitat plan, like Wildlife Habitat Overlay Districts.
- On November 15, Riley will be presenting the report to the Council.
- The Crescent Rd. project sort of cuts through the habitat corridor, and there are riparian buffer issues and it's in a creek head.
- We need to get ahead of it by presenting the corridor and the EC working with the City in developing environmental protections for the corridor.

6. New business (8:15-8:50 p.m.)

A. Environmental Commission's formal UDO change process

- What role will the EC play when Planning, Plan Commission, and the Council begin discussions about changing the UDO?
- The forms that were created for amendments could be used for new UDO proposals.

- Formalizing our positions in a standardized way would be good.
 - EC representation should be at the meetings.
 - The EC didn't give any presentations at the last one.
 - Being physically there has its advantages.
 - How engaged do we want to be in the process?
 - Last time, the UDO process was longer than the master plan process, with lots of opportunities for input, which the EC utilized.
 - This is our principal means to affect change in city policy, so we should be as involved as we can be.
 - This would definitely require extra work on our end.
- C. Presenter for November
- Nick had talked about Adam Wason from Public Works to come speak about the sanitation upgrades
 - Chris: There's been discussion about creating a water fund to protect source water. Using the money from consumers to go into a fund that would be used to develop measures to preserve and protect water.
 - The sanitation upgrade happened so soon that they may not have anything to tell us yet.
 - Green Camino, the new composting company, is legitimate, and have expressed interest in talking with the EC. They see the city moving to curbside composting within 3-5 years, and would like to talk with us about that.
 - A straw poll was taken, which indicated that we would like to hear from Green Camino. Ramsay will reach out to them and see if they can come in November.
- D. Nomination Committee
- Need someone that's not Nick to be nominated to be on the nomination committee.
 - He will send out an email and ask for commissioners to serve.
- E. Commission vacancies
- There are currently two vacancies on the EC.
 - Nick wants to reach out to city council to see how fast of a turnaround we can get to fill up the commission.
 - Linda said that the EC needs to solicit applicants because the Council tends to be slow at this stuff.
 - Nick will be leaving the EC after this year, as will Dedaimia, so there will be two more vacancies, bringing the total number to four by next year.

7. Commissioner announcements and adjournment (8:50-8:55 p.m.)

Riley: No announcements

Matt: No announcements

Ramsay: Deep Roots is having its first annual clearance sale next week so tell your friends.

Mike: Regarding urban deer, he would advise us to check out the Deer Task Force report.

Chris: He recently drove down Weimar Rd. and saw that one of the largest swaths of undeveloped land in the city was sold, so greenspace retention as mentioned in the habitat plan is very important.

Chaim: No announcements

Erin: No announcements

Dedaimia: No announcements

Ramsay: No announcements

Linda: No announcements

Andy: No announcements

Nick: Asked Riley to keep track of environmentally related bills at the state level again this year like he did last year.

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 16 November, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. EC Planning Committee: 25 October, 9 November, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 15 November, 9:30 a.m., Rose Hill office
- D. BCOS meeting: 14 November, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 8 November, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 13 December, 4:30 p.m., Parks
- G. MPO CAC: 25 October, 6:30 p.m., McCloskey
- H. MCSWMD Board: 9 November, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse