



**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 July 2018

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions (7:00 - 7:05 p.m.)
  - Present: David Parkhurst, Mike Litwin, Matt Caldie, Nick Kappas, Linda Thompson, Erica Walker, Morgan Taylor (by phone), Linda Thompson, Erin Hatch, Stephen Feely
  - Absent: Zoe Need
  - Nick proposed amendments to the agenda, including removal of biodiversity from the working group discussion and adding discussion of the water working group, removal of new commissioners from old business, and lastly addition of Friends of Lake Monroe 319 grant support to new business.
    - Mike moved to approve the agenda modifications, David seconded. Unanimous voice vote in support. Modified agenda approved.
2. Approval of minutes (7:05 - 7:10 p.m.)
  - Mike moved to approve June 2018 minutes, Matt seconded. Unanimous vote in support. June minutes approved.
3. Public comment (7:10 - 7:20 p.m.)
  - No public comment
4. Green Camino, Inc. Kathy Gutowsky, Randi Cox (7:20 - 7:50)
  - Kathy Gutowsky and Randi Cox from Green Camino gave a presentation
    - Green Camino is a women-owned, domestic benefit corporation that offers curbside pick-up and drop-off services for composting. Pilot program launched in November 2017, partnering with Fable Farms who manage the composting process and possess a state permit to do so. The business hopes to make composting convenient so that everyone can benefit from the local recovery of organic resources.
    - Since the launch of Green Camino, they have recovered 6+ tons of organic waste. Additionally have partnered with local businesses, such as restaurants, to reuse food storage buckets for compost buckets for customers of Green Camino. Have collected buckets from Dagwood's Deli, Jimmy John's, One World Enterprises, and Bloomington Bagels.
    - Green Camino has provided support for zero waste events, such as collection of compost from the Lotus Festival, Indiana Water Resources Association meeting, and county Soil and Water Conservation District events. They are also working to increase community education on zero waste through providing education outreach, and have given presentations at the Project School.
    - They currently are running a 6-month pilot at Bloomington City Hall.
  - Questions
    - Erica: I know there are concerns about the capacity of the solid waste district to address Bloomington's growing waste, how do you think this could fit in?

- Randi: The District had contracted with Kessler Consulting to look into advancing waste management, with the waste audit produced previously noting that ~40% of waste was compostable. County is now looking into composting, and has contracted Kessler again for that process.
- Mike: Does Fable Farms sell the finished product of the compost and are you looking into getting involved in that end of the business as well?
  - Randi: Anticipating finished product in the spring, but nothing available right now. Right now they are an amazing partner to work with.
- David: Bloomingfoods gets compost every year to sell, do you know if Fable Farms is part of that?
  - Randi: Unsure.
- Erin: Why did you choose to partner with Fable Farms rather than manage the compost process yourself?
  - Randi: We were connected with Fable Farms through a fellow volunteer at Mother Hubbards, already had a relationship with previous owner for Fable Farms and was utilizing them for composting. She helped facilitate that connection, and they were already set up for and interested in producing compost. Initially we did look into doing it ourselves, however simply did not have the investors or money to purchase the land necessary.
- Nick: What is the end growth rate or size for the company and what is your plan to scale up if you do want to expand?
  - Kathy: We want to expand and have as many people composting as possible.
- Mike: Has there been any problems with contamination of compost?
  - Randi: Customers have seemed to have a little bit of learning curve, but pretty good. Actually, we have seen more of an issue of people not composting much initially, since they are unsure what to put in initially, then having their compost bucket weight grow as the weeks go on. One challenge is single use compostable items in the market place. We only take DPI certified, so this can be confusing, and not all items labelled compostable are made equally.
- Mike: Is there a limit on number of buckets people can have?
  - Kathy: You can subscribe for multiple buckets, and there is no limit on that amount.
- Nick: Does Green Camino have a specific ask for the EC?
  - Randi: Just spread the word.
  - Nick: Maybe the EC can make a composting fact sheet, FAQ, or bookmark.

5. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (B cycle) (7:50 - 8:10 p.m.)

A Cycle

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

- David: Tree Commission has notes on the way.
- Nick: Talked with a county environmental commissioner, named Katie Wilts, who said they would be jazzed to start collaborating and meeting annually with the two groups together potentially.

B Cycle

A. Outreach

- Matt: No official meeting since June EC meeting, and we haven't tabled yet due to lack of City Hall building access for interns. This set-back is now resolved.

## B. ECPC/Planning Commission

- Linda: I have one case to talk about, as we have previously talked about the other cases going in front of the Plan Commission.
  - David: Some of these cases actually came up in regard to trees on the Tree Commission.
  - Linda: Were they unhappy with anything we did?
  - David: One member believes gingkoes should be allowed, even though they are not native, but mixed views on their nativity. The individual was unhappy that ginkgoes are not being promoted.
  - Linda: When we talk about natives we are talking about native to this ecoregion of south central Indiana.
  - Mike: Native in the sense of being part of the current ecosystem.
  - Erica: The question is if it is invasive, and would do harm
  - David: Also flowering pears were discussed, and how another state has passed a law to ban planting them.
    - Linda: Technically they are not legal here, as they are on the City's invasive species list, and no invasives can be over 6" and no listed invasive can be newly planted either, these are according to Title 6 and Title 20. While there is talk to take Bradford Pears down, the Urban Forester's resources are focused on ash trees currently.
- Morton North Lot 1, also called Waterstone. Is a large lot in the trades district, with most of it built out, this is one of a few lots not currently built out. The administration is not very keen on it, because originally the plan indicated it as office space, but that sunset period has passed. This new proposal is for a mixed use building. Plan for a parking garage on the lower level partially underground, trash and recycling and utilities on the lower level, the next two levels (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor) would be a hotel, and then the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> stories being small studios and 1 bedroom apartments. Parking garage would enter from the west, with the main entrance to hotel being on the east. 22 parking spaces, 100sq ft office/retail space, 40 room hotel, and 30 bedrooms in the apartments. It is conceivable that the renters won't have cars.

The original area has been broken up into different lots and sold to different people. Those other individual properties had used the other parts of the lots to comply with parking perimeter plans and interior building plans. All have separate landscape plans, Linda is a little lost on how to address this as new lots are built out and these areas used to comply with landscaping and others are not being changed. The only green feature they said they would have is recycling space. Main issue is landscaping for the entire facility (all lots, not just this lot) that is an issue.

- Nick: This plan is better than just a parking lot, but is not conducive to the area as it adds to the Trades district being just apartments with no technology.
- Linda: Tech park was supposed to be a tech park with some residential, now that residential amount is increasing. The time window allows for them to no longer have to be just office space, as that was a recorded commitment from previous zoning plan that has now passed its sunset window.
- Nick: From an environmental standpoint, this doesn't provide any benefits other than recycling which should just be the norm. From the Plan Commissioner side of things, we had discussions about the giant student oriented housing on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. and State Road 46, and have received a lot of emails from the public to vote no on this. Plan commission is having a special hearing on the transportation plan in two weeks. In terms of moving

toward sustainable and affordable housing, an ADU was approved in Bryan Park by the BZA.

#### C. ~~Biodiversity~~

#### D. Water

- Mike: Had a meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> most of what was discussed was related to Friends of Lake Monroe and the waterfund as presented by The Nature Conservancy. Agreed that Erica would be the representative on the waterfund stakeholder group. Also, received an email to ask for support for the 319 grant proposal support. FOLM meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month so doesn't conflict with EC meeting. Also discussed a potential water quality study and feasibility study as potential project for EC intern.
- Nick: Black and Veatch last conducted a water study in 2009. Want the EC to be the ones that spearhead any potential reporting or investigative work into the drinking water system. We need an assessment of supply, demand, quality analysis and more. Currently, we are at the 50 year mark of Lake Monroe for remaining years to supply its customers.
  - Erica: Considering Purdue's recent climate report, it would be interesting to take their precipitation models and apply it to Bloomington and our elevation maps to identify vulnerable areas. That type of information could have future implications for development and impervious surfaces.
    - Linda: Another consulting firm from the state recently finished a flood mitigation plan that produced some awesome maps, based on the roads that actually flood not FEMA maps.
    - Erica: Yes, something like that combined with modeling. Maybe we can host a SPEA Capstone project. We can ask for them to produce some maps utilizing future modeling to identify and classify most sensitive areas, and ask to include policy recommendations at the end.
    - Nick: Let's think about this and bring it up and see if we want to apply for a capstone.
  - Erica: There is a new Environmental Director at CBU, along with other new individuals overseeing various aspects of the City's water. It may be worthwhile to bring them in to talk to us.
  - Linda: Might be nice to have Vic come in to talk.
    - Nick: Maybe we can talk about water pricing.
    - Linda: We can't change anything because we are pre-empted by the state. However, would like to know where Vic stands on conducting a new study about drinking water.

#### E. ~~BCOS~~

### 6. Old business (8:10 - 8:20 p.m.)

#### A. UDO update

- Mike: Latest Module 1 is mostly about zoning district and uses, nothing related directly to environmental aspects.
- Linda: The habitat connectivity overlay district was not included at this time, as the consultants didn't have enough time to flush it out with the administration. Raised some lawsuit redflags in regard to regulatory takings. Didn't talk about environmental things, those are more in Module 2. Did tell them that were disappointed with lack of expansion of urban agriculture. This was brought up at the meeting Mike and Dave were in.
- Dave: Seems they might go to allow in single family development to allow them to grow and sell agriculture in their front yard.
- Linda: Biggest problem is the definitions as these are what are stifling. The EC needs to go over definitions regarding urban agriculture as I think they need to be changed. Also

the definitions to be presented in Module 2 will need to be looked over regarding environmental issues, like tree preservation and greenspace.

- Nick: What about recycling?
- Linda: That was not brought up at all.
- Mike: With the habitat overlay, they would really need to look at the way it's worded to decide on whether it's a taking.
- Linda: Think it would be better if we put what protections we want in an overlay district across the board anyway. Regardless we need to get committees started for Module 2.
- Nick: From a commission standpoint, since we are running lean, we should have special sessions. Is everyone okay with having special sessions to go through Module 2? And when should we start?
- Erica: How many meetings is reasonable to break this up into?
- Linda: 5-6 meetings. Maybe an hour or so each meeting. Will send out a list of topics.
- Nick: Then we can send a doodlepoll for meeting times.
- Linda: People also have to read the existing UDO regulations first, word for word.
- Erica: So will get a list of topics then pick dates, and on our own time we will read and go through the existing UDO.
- Nick: Action items: Linda sends out list of topics and Stephen will send out a doodlepoll tomorrow (Friday) to set up meeting dates.

#### B. New Commissioners

#### C. Tabling at Farmers' Market and other events/ inventory of supplies

- Nick: I can do the 28<sup>th</sup>. How do we want to go about logistically setting this up? If we have the booth up from say 9am to 1pm. How do we get the stuff back in?
- Linda: Makes sense if we come up with a schedule, and because we are lean think about doing this every other week, need at least two EC members every time we are there. Can't ask the interns to be there every Saturday. Maybe Matt can set up a schedule, every other week or once a month.
- Matt: What about the survey to collect data on the UDO for tabling?
- Nick: Linda, are you okay with the survey do you want to see the survey? Let's have Matt forward that to everyone as a matter of order.

#### ~~D. UDO committee re tree preservation, tree protection during construction, & urban agriculture~~

### 7. New business (8:20 - 8:30)

#### A. Transportation Plan discussion

- Linda: End of next week is the deadline for public comment.
- David: Is this what contains turning 3<sup>rd</sup> street from a one-way to a two-way?
- Linda: What are the pros and cons of that?
- Nick: Two-way is traffic calming, but would only work if IU gave up its property for bus cut outs.
- Erica: In most places you need to have a certain amount of traffic per day to justify having paired one-ways, and we had less than 50% of that traffic amount. So would help with congestion and decrease traffic speed for safety.
- Linda: Also needs to be address is the delivery trucks.
- Nick: They suggested placing hour limits on when the delivery trucks could come, there are ways around dealing with the delivery trucks.
- Erica: For the EC is it worthwhile for us to review the transportation plan for environmental concerns?

- Linda: Also proposes new streets in areas proposed as greenspace, so that is also an environmental issue.
  - Mike: That is what happened last time.
  - Matt: Not just roads but multi use paths.
- David: If traffic is slowed is there more air pollution? Of if it reduces congestion does it reduce it?
  - Nick: If you turn the street to two-way traffic will move more freely and reduces strain on high volume streets.
  - David: Sounds like a major mathematical modeling problem on what it does to air pollution.
- Linda: Next week comments are due then the plan will go in front of Plan Commission.
- Nick: If we do have concerns with air pollution or otherwise we need to make those suggestions. The plan also is proposing to turn Kirkwood to a shared street, take out all the curbs and separate with bollards instead. Would like keep the concrete but do stamped concrete instead.

#### B. New Commissioners

- Linda: stack of well-qualified applicants, have been pestering the Mayor's office who says they are on it.
- Nick: The EC has five open positions currently.

#### C. Friends of Lake Monroe 319 Grant

- Mike: The project is titled "Lake Monroe Watershed Plan Development", the abstract proposes to "develop a watershed management plan complying with state and federal 219 requirements. Will partner with IU SPEA Limnology Lab, a watershed coordinator, and others to engage stakeholders in order to identify community concerns and conduct a watershed inventory to calculate sediment and nutrient loading". FOLM is asking us for a letter supporting their application addressing why it is an important project, why it is timely and necessary, and that the EC will follow and provide input for the project. Additionally it asks for our recommendation that the city extend in-kind matching funds of \$15k-30k. Is this something the EC can do, or do the matching fund recommendation request warrant review at a higher level?
- Linda: That would have to have the CBU onboard.
- Nick: A recommendation for something this important is definitely not out of the realm of possibility.
- Linda: In regard to in-kind work, if our interns do anything on the topic that is in-kind. But if we find out that Vic is already doing that, his staff would be doing in-kind work. Don't see a problem that the stakeholders provide in-kind services. That wouldn't be telling utilities they have to give any money.
- Mike: Can we run with it or check on it?
- Linda: I will check with Vic about this, to make sure we are not stepping on his toes.
- Nick: Weren't they asking for our support soon?
- Mike: August 13<sup>th</sup> deadline for support letter.
- Nick: Propose we make a motion contingent upon the information gathered through Vic on in-kind resources, and preliminarily approve a recommendation letter for 319 grant. The letter would be drafted by myself then sent for review and edits to the EC, this letter would be in support of FOLM and consistent with everything they listed for their request.
  - Mike motioned to approve a support letter for a 319 grant for Friends of Lake Monroe. Letter would include everything requested, with the inclusion of matching in-kind funds from the City recommendation condition contingent on information from CBU. Dave seconded. Unanimous vote to approve support letter.

8. Commissioner announcements (8:30 - 8:40 p.m.)

- Linda: No announcements.
- Erica: Everyone should attend the Indiana Water Summit, in 3 weeks (Aug 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>). All the senators that make water policy are going to be there. I will be there for my job. It is \$5 for Sunday and is put on by the White River Alliance in Indianapolis.
- Erin: Will not be here for the August EC meeting, going on a road trip.
- Stephen: Started greenspace trends report update earlier this week.
- Mike: The Indiana food scrap initiation and IRC are having a meeting August 2<sup>nd</sup> in Indianapolis. Also I will be out of town until August 11<sup>th</sup>. Going to Texas.
- Matt: No announcements.
- Nick: Was just out in Sedona, Arizona who were very good with their grey water. Let's be responsive to doodle polls for Module 2 and outreach tabling.

9. Adjournment

- David motioned to adjourn, Mike seconded. Adjourned 9:17pm.

Other meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 16 August, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. EC Planning Committee: 1 August, 9 August, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 15 August, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 14 August, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 8 August, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 8 August, 4:30 p.m., TBD