



**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 September 2018

City Hall—McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

### 1. Introductions:

- Present: Nick Kappas (Chair), Matt Caldie, Ryan Clemens, Mike Litwin, David Parkhurst, Zoe Need, Morgan Taylor, Andrew Guenther, Erin Hatch (Intern), Kate Corcoran (SPEA Fellow)
- Absent: Erica Walker
- New members:
  - Kate Corcoran, new SPEA fellow: 1st year grad student at IU SPEA in the dual MPA/MSES program. Previously was a PeaceCorp volunteer, and is interested in city government and the role commissions and planning departments play.
  - Andrew Guenther, new Commissioner: Previously Vice-President of Monroe County Environmental Commission, and previous City of Bloomington Housing Quality Appeals Board Vice Chair.
  - Ryan Clemens, new Commissioner: Recent MPA/MSES graduate from SPEA, previous intern with the Environmental Commission.
  - Andrea Webster: Recent transplant to Bloomington, works at the ERI, before worked for City of Louisville Sustainability Department, have a MPA/MS from Maxwell School at Syracuse.

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

- Agenda revisions: add introductions for new members, add new business about fellow and intern projects, and replace biodiversity with water for tonight's cycle.
- Mike moved to approve the revised agenda, David seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. Revised agenda approved.
- Morgan moved to approve August minutes, Zoe seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. August minutes approved.

### 3. Public comment. Limit 5 minutes per person (7:10 - 7:20 p.m.)

- No public comment.

### 4. Reports from tree commission, BCOS, & ERAC commissions (7:20 - 7:35)

- Tree Commission report from Zoe:
  - Commission discussed new members to the tree commission, one from Mayor and one from Common Council. Hoping to start next week planting season, this may be prevented by weather. They are considering redoing the concert area at 3rd St. Park (near the Boys and Girls club), to help remove and replace a declining silver maple. Lee is planning to remove flowering pear along the B-Line and near Lowes, however there is a stretch of property near Lowes that is not city property, so will not be able to remove the trees along there.
    - Nick: Do they know what may be causing the decline of the Silver Maple?

- Mike: Silver Maples don't live that long.
- BCOS from Erin:
  - BCOS discussed the recently released UDO Module 2, along with future planning for how to participate and engage in the rest of the UDO process. Discussed the BCOS sustainability awards and modifications to this year's nomination process to open it up to the public. Also discussed the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) draft, with report from the Economic and Sustainable Development Department liaison Autumn Salamack who is the lead on that project. Emphasis placed on the SAP not being the end all be all for sustainable planning in Bloomington, and should be seen as a document that will be changed in the future as goals are met and needs change. Hope that future iterations are more inclusive of the equity and economic aspects of sustainability.
- ERAC from David:
  - Recommendation to allow hunters to participate in deer cull was passed by Common Council, which was a recommendation from both the EC and ERAC. There will be 6-8 dates that will open for hunting, with an individual from the culling company to oversee activities on those dates. There was a lot of comments against the cull from the public.
    - Nick: Somewhat agree with those public comments, taking to account the presentation we had last year about how deer were reintroduced to this area not that long ago.
    - Mike: I think around the 1940s or mid century
    - David: One quote in the paper said they should give the deer birth control, but state fish and wildlife doesn't allow this because of the trophic effect and the consumption by humans. The state also doesn't allow euthanasia either.

5. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups (B cycle) (7:35 - 8:00 p.m.)

A Cycle

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

B Cycle

- A. Outreach
  - No official meeting within last month, looking forward to tabling this weekend.
- B. ECPC/Planning Commission
  - Building along 10<sup>th</sup> next to Lennie's will be torn down and replaced with a 4 story tall building. This will have commercial space on street level and office space on the remaining levels. Will have 86 public parking space in back. Plan on using permeable pavers in plaza, walkways, and parking spaces. The plan is a little lacking on landscaping, but no reason to reject them. From environmental standpoint this may be a nice improvement from what is currently there, and increases amount of permeable surface (from 2% to 30%).
  - There were continued petitions that we already talked about:
    - Mixed use building near east of Upland. We already talked about this.
    - 17th St. and Arlington Rd. 800 person student housing development.
    - 446 and 3rd St. is going in front of city council. Nick plans to go to that and petition against.

~~C. Biodiversity~~

- D. Water
  - Nothing to report.



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6. Old business (8:00 - 8:20 p.m.)

A. Letter of support for Friends of Lake Monroe (FLM)

- Letter of support was sent off to FLM. Did not commit to matching fund request, but committed to provision of person hours.

B. UDO recommendation session planning

- Erica has all of EC UDO work session comments, and will submit them to the city. With Module 2, Nick had a meeting with the Plan Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and some City Council members. There was minimal turnout, but lively commentary. There will be 3 levels of environmental incentives: 1st level gives a basic building setback, 2<sup>nd</sup> level and 3<sup>rd</sup> level can add a floor and more parking spaces. Initially the incentives had the requirements have completion of LEED Bronze certification for 1<sup>st</sup> level, LEED Silver certification for 2<sup>nd</sup> level, and LEED Platinum certification for 3<sup>rd</sup> level of incentive. Modifications from this meeting included requiring LEED Platinum for both 2<sup>nd</sup> level and 3<sup>rd</sup> level incentives.
- Feedback on EC UDO work sessions:
  - David: Worked pretty well.
  - Mike: They were good for brainstorming.
  - Nick: Did we identify future projects if they don't get built in to the UDO?
  - Morgan: Yes, for example David's idea that pulled from Madison to create community gardens. These are open gardens with fruit orchards, open for anyone to pull fruit from. Interesting and useful given the homeless population here.
- Module 2 Stakeholder Meetings:
  - Mike: Attended the stakeholder meetings, most conversation was about affordable housing. Consultants could not immediately answer questions about environmental aspects, such as riparian buffer widths and if they have flexibility on what that means, and sediment buffer design (right now only budget for 2 year storm, which is likely not enough). Module 3 will be brought in in November, will take comments for Module 2 until then.
  - David: Went to one meeting, at that they mostly talked about how to allow for multifamily housing that wouldn't be student housing, as a lot of residents don't want student housing next to them.
  - Nick: Affordable housing is going to be the ticket housing for when the UDO update goes in front of the plan commission, so we need to petition in front of the plan commission if our environmental comments are not put into the UDO update draft. There should be multiple comment periods for this in front of the Plan Commission.
- Module 3 is coming up, so will see what will be in there.
  - Mike: Will included administration processes.
  - Erin: Will probably include the PUD process.
  - Nick: PUD is planned unit development. This module will include definitions, and the process how new developments and redevelopments can get approved.

C. Tabling at Farmers' Market process and dates

- Full coverage for this Saturday, have milkweed plugs to give away, and well stocked outreach material. Have a printed out and laminated map from the Bloomington Habitat Connectivity Plan.
- Nick: Moving forward hope to switch up the theme each time tabling.
- Matt: Can we include the UDO survey we drafted at the tabling event?
- David: Can add if you have a garden or a vegetable garden and how big it is onto the survey, as the food policy council would be interested in this information.

## 7. New business

- Fellow and Intern Projects (Greenspace Report Update, BEAP, UDO Research, Conditional Agreements for Development Approval Tracking Document)
  - Kate: Been working as a fellow for 3 weeks now, examining towns similar to Bloomington and compiling information from their city codes about riparian buffers.
    - Nick: Can you provide an update of what you have found at the next meeting. Can use this to draft comments for the UDO from this data.
  - Nick: We want to continually update the BEAP, and add addendums and changes that have gone on as we move along in the commission. The original timeline was only until 2020 or 2030. This should be a fellow or intern leading this update, with support and comments from the Commissioners to draft addendums or updates. These updates should be reported those to City Council, this would be more of a year or year and a half long project.
  - Mayor's Monarch Pledge: Hoping Ryan can help out with that still, and work with Linda to make sure it is reported on correctly.

## 8. Commissioner announcements (8:20 - 8:30 p.m.)

- Erin: No announcements.
- Kate: No announcements.
- Zoe: Will be missing tabling, as will be doing a service learning component for an Environmental Justice class up in Indianapolis. Going door to door to talk about a contaminated site with individuals.
- Andrew: City has started covering plots and removing invasive vines that have taken over neighboring plots in community garden.
- Morgan: Band is playing at Players Pub on Saturday 8-11pm.
- David: City has a park called Leonard Springs, each spring and fall kids go to an event on Tuesdays usually that teach them about a variety of environmental topics. Kids go through various sites, with different topics. Looking for volunteers to cover those sites.
- Mike: For new members, EC has about 45 year history, which should be available on the website. One of the most widely used herbicide is RoundUp, just read a newspaper article where an individual had won a lawsuit against Monsanto claiming he had gotten cancer from long-term use of RoundUp. This has interesting implications as this is widely used in ecological restoration applications.
- Ryan: Recently got a job as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Monroe County Health Department, going to a conference in Indianapolis on mold, tomorrow tabling in Ellettsville for an environmental education awareness day.
- Matt: No announcements.
- Nick: Special plan commission session on October 9th from 530 to 9pm, specifically for the transportation plan.

## 9. Adjournment

- Adjourned: 8:30pm

## Other meeting times

- Environmental Commission: 18 October, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- EC Planning Committee: 26 September, 10 October, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- Tree Commission: 17 October, 9:30 a.m., Rosehill

- D. BCOS meeting: 9 October, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room
- E. MCEC Com.: 10 October, 5:30 p.m., Nat U Hill Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 10 October, 4:30 p.m., TBD