



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

21 March 2019, 6:00 PM
City Hall—Hooker Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Call to Order and Quorum Confirmation
 - Present: Ryan Clemens, Matt Caldie, Chris Ericson, Don Eggert, Andrew Guenther, Lindsey Hummel, Mike Litwin, Zoe Need, David Parkhurst, Erica Walker, Andrea Webster, Erin Hatch (Intern)
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes
 - Don moved to approve February minutes, Zoe seconded. Unanimous voice vote in favor of approving February minutes. Minutes approved.
4. Public Comment: Limit 5 minutes per person
 - No comments.
5. Presentation: Youth Environmental Sustainability Society; “Environmental Change Resolution” letter of support, Jarrett Alexander
 - Jarrett: This is a resolution aimed at making CoB more sustainable, written by Bloomington High School North (BHSN), Bloomington High School South, and the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship students. We presented to BCOS, City Council, TC, Historic Preservation Commission, and at a few community events (GreenDrinks, the environmental summit at IU and an event at BHSN). The resolution has 6 sections all aimed at different topics. Based on previous feedback, we are working to potentially make some changes regarding the limitations of changing electric mix due to the role that Duke plays in supplying our energy.
 - o Andrea: In section 1, why white painted roofs versus white roof materials in general? You could modify this language to cool roofs, defined by Energy Star so that you allow other materials such as asphalt shingles that still have a fairly high albedo. You can still keep specific examples such as white roofs or asphalt shingles.
 - David: I would talk to Linda to look into the language she has used previously about cool roofs.
 - o Lindsey: Did you know in the SAP already includes emission reduction goals?
 - Jarrett: We have met and talked with Autumn about this. The SAP doesn't have 2050 reduction goals, since it is a short term action plan, but our

- o other emissions goal should align. However, the City doesn't have the data to use the same baseline.
- Andrea: Mayor Hamilton signed the "We Are Still In" declaration, which matches the Paris Climate Accord amounts, but the SAP has a different amount listed, 11% reduction by 2023 relative of 2016. With the GHG inventory they are doing this summer they can update their data and actually push for what Mayor Hamilton has signed.
- Jarrett: In regard to section 4 and 5, we are planning to meet with Bloomington Transit and Monroe Public Library leadership to coordinate, as these are independent of the City of Bloomington government. In regard to section 6, this was the language that the Tree Commission wanted. We also added parts that give the arborist control over types of trees that were planted.
 - o David: I would like to suggestion rather than replacing removed trees with trees of equal diameter to instead replace with trees of equal carbon uptake.
 - o Andrew: What about adding some language including biodiversity?
 - o Jarrett: We don't want to get too into biodiversity and focus more on carbon sequestration.
 - o Don: Maybe rather than using native, using "diverse native" as the language for that section.
- Erica: A good strategy would be to point out the area where these goals already align with various other plans. Also pointing out cities that are doing these actions, like we see that this is being implemented in x, y, z comparable city.
- Jarrett: This type of resolution has already be passed in other Indiana cities. We are looking for a letter of endorsement from this body. Since there are some changes to make to this resolution, we can make those and then bring the resolution back to you at your next meeting.
- Andrew: We will discuss at our April meeting then.

6. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, & ERAC

- Zoe, Tree Commission (TC): The Parks and Recreation Department is considering a change that the TC thinks will violate the municipal code. They propose the City become more active in finding hazard trees on private property and removing those trees. There was a tree butting against a property line between private and public property. The City ended up taking it down using public money. Tree Commission invited the Parks and Recreation Department to come to the next TC meeting. They want to talk to the Legal Department to talk about potential risks associated with this plan.
 - o Andrew: Would the City be actively looking for these or waiting for reports from neighbors?
 - o Zoe: This is where the conflict is, the Parks and Recreation Department is suggesting a more active action from the urban forester, but will know more the next TC meeting.
- Andrew, Monroe County Environmental Commission (MoCo): Bare bones meeting, just talked about what to do in the upcoming year.
- Erin, Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS): Autumn Salamack is transitioning out of her position, with this past March meeting being her last. She was offered a similar position back in the Seattle area where she had worked and lived previously. Had a presentation from Fable Farms, who is looking to expand their composting capacity at their property, and expand that part of their business. They are launching a program to partner with

faith organizations to act as hubs for drop off of compost materials. The City will have an intern from ISDP who will conduct a greenhouse gas inventory project and work as part of a larger cohort across Indiana municipalities. Talked about the Transportation Plan briefly.

- David, Environmental Resources Advisory Council (ERAC): Meet every two months, so already reported on last meeting.
- Andrew, Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO): Working on Transportation Plan, the UDO, and amendments on a proposal by the State for getting drones for construction and policing, asking all 13 MPOs to contribute to this proposal.

7. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups B **Cycle**



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.

A Cycle

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

B Cycle

A. Outreach

- Erica: How tabling at the Farmer's market worked last year was pretty simple. When we did it we had a certain initiative, like we were giving away two species of milkweed to align with the pollinator initiative. We have a bunch of literature from years and years of EC work. I would suggest if we were going to talk about tabling, we should pick some topics that we should focus on.
 - i. Andrew: Does anyone know when the summer market opens up?
 - ii. Zoe: April 6th.
- Matt: Maybe we should reassign working groups in the next two weeks.

B. ECPC/Planning Commission

- Andrew: Linda didn't have any updates. The Curry Urban project didn't pass with 5-3 to not recommend, otherwise everything we previously discussed passed on consent agenda.

C. Biodiversity

- No items at the moment.
- Don: Does Bloomington have any ordinances that prevents sale of invasives?
 - i. Andrew: There is a list in the UDO about invasive plants that are not approved for planting.
 - ii. Lindsey: Indiana banned 44 species of invasives for sale.



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.

8. Old business

A. Eco Heroes update

- Erin: Have almost \$2,000 worth of donation prizes, but minimal entries so far, but people tend to submit things last minute.
- Andrew: Do we have social media about this event, like a Facebook event page?
 - Erin: No, but I can work to get that set up.
- Andrea: we should advertise with the farmers market people, maybe in their e-newsletter.
- Erin: I will send an email out tomorrow to ask individuals to volunteer as judges for the contest.

B. UDO

- Zoe: Public comments are due April 30th.
- Mike: I attended the stakeholder meetings for the consolidated draft. They focused how they had changed it from previous draft, mostly around student housing and affordable housing. Did not talk about anything environmental at all. We did submit comments for the last module, however they have since changed the numbers of some sections comments do not align up directly to this new version. They noted their changes in the footnotes of this new draft. I think they had accepted 3 of our comments but rejected the other 21 comments.
- Lindsey: They did make changes to some of the incentives for sustainable and affordable housing.

9. New business

A. Letter to Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) re: The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763) – Richard Durisen

- David: I proposed that we as the Environmental Commission support the CCL's bill. The proposal is that "the City of Bloomington EC endorses the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763). If we vote to endorse the bill, I would request additional actions. First, that we should send our endorsement to Representative Hollisingworth to ask him to sponsor the bill, second to send our endorsement to Senators Young and Brown to ask to them to introduce to a senate version of the bill, and lastly to submit a letter to the Herald Times explaining the bill and our endorsement.
 - Erica: Is there anything missing from this bill?
 - Richard: There are a number of things that various people have issues have, but it's by far the best thing that has come along in a long time. Some people would like to see it be more progressive in targeting people that are more effective by a carbon tax introduction rather than an across the board dividend. The uniform dividend approach is simple. As the bill

passes through Congress, it may end up with cut outs for specific spending. There are some exemptions like for agriculture and the Army.

- o Mike: How long do you envision it would take to implement this bill and how difficult?
- o Richard: The fee should start 270 days after the bill is enacted, that is relatively quick. One provision I like is that they would give the first dividend before the first fee is collected, so treasury would underwrite the first dividend, so that no one would be hit by the rising costs. My impression that this kind of levying of a fee is not a big deal, but distribution of the dividend is a bit of a deal. For the first few years up to 8% of the fees collected could be used to administer the program, but would drop to 2% after sometime. Also, since distribution of the dividends uses IRS and social security for identifying people, there are people missing from that group who wouldn't be eligible for the dividend, which some identify as an issue.
- o Don: How is the support for this bill right now?
- o Richard: CCL is always working behind the scenes, and have been lobbying this for years. Right now we have 19 co-sponsors, 1 of which is a republican. What we need now are more republican co-sponsors.
- David: I would like to propose that we vote in favor of endorsing The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763).
 - o Unanimous voice vote in support of the Environmental Commission endorsement.
- David: I will work on drafting the associated letters, and will send them out to everyone to approve.

B. Bird Fest

- Andrew: The organizers of BirdFest would like us to have an interactive table or booth at the event, April 13th at Karst Farm Park 1-4 pm.
- Erica: Seems like a great place to show our connectivity plan, I'm available and think we should have a table.
- Erin will send out another poll to sign up to table.

10. Commissioner announcements

- Mike: I think we should briefly discuss at the next meeting how long the minutes should be, the nature of the minutes, content of the minutes, whether to write things verbatim or summarize things.
- Andrew: City Council election events next week. There is a candidate meet and greet on Saturday at Upland and another event Monday.
- Richard: There is a talk by Katherine Hayoe at Fine Arts at IU next Thursday.

11. Adjournment

Next EC meeting, 18 April, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall