



**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 November 2019, 6:00 PM
Utilities Service Center, Conference Room, 600 E. Miller Dr.

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation
2. Introductions
 - Present: Andrew Guenther, Erica Walker, Andrea Webster, Mike Litwin, Chris Ericson, Lindsey Hummel, Matt Caldie, David Parkhurst, Don Eggert, Kate Corcoran (SPEA fellow), Suzannah Evans Comfort, Linda Thompson (liaison), Jesus Rivera (EC Intern)
 - Absent: Ryan Clemens, Angel Nathan (new commissioner)
3. Approval of minutes
 - Chris moved to approve October minutes. Unanimous voice vote in favor of approving October minutes. Minutes approved.
4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person
 - None.
5. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, ERAC, & MPO-CAC
 - TC: Lindsey: discussing two site plans, hiring still open for urban forester.
 - MoCo EC: no report
 - BCOS: no report
 - ERAC: haven't met, no report
 - MPO-CAC: Andrew: complete streets policy updates and review, hospital routes, Bloomington transit route optimization study - Andrew will send this out after meeting.
6. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups: **B Cycle**

<u>A Cycle</u>	<u>B Cycle</u>
A. ECPC/Planning Commission	A. Outreach
B. Waste/Hazards	B. ECPC/Planning Commission
C. Water	C. Biodiversity

 - ECPC: Trinitas. Located on northwest side of town, approaching highway 69. Four different areas, A B C and D. Area A is single family housing. Considering giving section A to the city, instead of building workforce housing. The city doesn't know what they want to do with the property. In areas B C and D there will be 825 beds. There will be a big apartment building, with amenity facilities on first floor. Area B is townhomes. Area D is duplexes. Will have volleyball court, pool, basketball court, play area, etc. Have preserved more land than since the plan was originally heard. Have not talked about

green building features. Will put in 8 electric car charging stations. 458 or 462 parking spaces – half a parking space per bed. Working with Bloomington transit to make another bus route to that area. More impervious surfaces than UDO would allow in most sections. 40 acres for whole project. Say they will have three recycling centers but only two are currently on the plan. Say they will plant w natives but plan is currently not in accordance with this. Trinitas will build bike path from 17th street to Arlington Road.

- Andrea: We can advocate for zipcar spaces as well. (Zipcar is a carshare)
- Questions about bike parking: Is it covered, lit, enough, distributed across lot?

7. Old business

A. HT column

- Erica will send out her column Monday before December meeting. Will be about water connectivity in urban landscape.
- Suzannah: Strong first person voice was more common in past HT articles.

B. UDO Adoption Draft

i. Recent developments in Council

- Met with council to discuss our amendments, and distilled amendments list down to 30 we wanted to push the most. Isabel Piedmont-Smith sponsored almost all of them. She did not sponsor amendment to ban herbicides and pesticides in conservation easements and riparian buffers because it is against state law to make local laws more stringent than state law.
- Linda: There is still a condition whereby you can get permission from the state if it's a specific situation, so we could continue to pursue this last point and get permission from the state. We could focus on water related easements like riparian buffers and karst.

ii. EC amendments sponsored

- These are the UDO amendments that were originated by or supported by the EC and sponsored by councilwoman Isabel-Piedmont Smith that PASSED:
 - o Am 06 - removed a condition for the omission of screening for solar panels—both ground-mounted and roof-mounted panels.
 - o Am 11 - Affects 20.02.020(b)(2), Table 2-3, 20.04.020(c) and Table 4-2 - Keeps impervious surface maximum in RE district to existing standard.
 - o Am 12 20.02.020(a), Table 2-2, 20.04.020(c) and Table 4-2 - Reduces impervious surface maximum for the new R1 district.
 - o Am 14 - Affects 20.02.030(b) - Adds “pedestrian oriented design and multi-modal transportation availability” to purpose for the Mixed-Use Neighborhood Scale (MN) district
 - o Am 15 - Affects 20.02.050(a) - Adds “enhanced ecosystems services” to the purpose of Planned Unit Developments (PUDs).
 - o Am 16 - Affects 20.02.050(b) - Moves two important environmental standards for PUDs from optional to required
 - o Am 19 - Affects 20.03.030(f)(2) - Allows solar panels anywhere behind the setback line of the applicable lot.
 - o Am 21- Affects 20.04.030(f)(1) & (9) - Lowers the lot size subject to riparian buffer standards from one to one-half acre and moves related maintenance standards to the same provision.
 - o Am 22 - Affects 20.04.030(f)(7)(D) - Limits the construction of streets over riparian buffers to when the need for the street is established and no reasonable alternative route can be identified.
 - o Am 31 - Affects 20.04.080(c)(2)(C) - Changes the term “species” to “genus” to foster greater tree diversity.

- o Am 33 – Affects 20.04.080(n)(1) & (3) – Requires the portion of fences exceeding 5’ on corner, interior, and through lots to be of “open construction” and increases the maximum height of fences protecting gardens from 8’ to 12’.
 - o Am 39 (CM Piedmont-Smith) – Affects 20.07.010 – Elaborates on the term “Intermittent Stream” and clarifies the term “Perennial Stream.”
 - We should send thank you letter to Piedmont Smith for her time and support
- C. Appointment of nomination of slate committee
- We have a three person slate committee appointed by the chair that collects nominations.
 - Andrew will appoint David, Matt, and Mike to the slate committee.
 - Send nominations a week before next meeting – end of business day on the 12th. Chair, vice chair, secretary are the open positions.
 - Chair: handles external work and represents EC at other meetings and answer questions, as well as working with staff and council when need be. Runs meetings.
 - Vice Chair: serves over subcommittees that we have – biodiversity, ECPC, etc. Runs meetings when chair is not present.
 - Secretary: takes minutes and receives correspondence for the commission. Technically also in charge of fund we have that is small and used on badges, plants, tabling materials, misc. EC can apply for grants, which could grow our funds. Currently the EC intern takes this minutes.
 - Andrew: I would like to see sub committees started up again, now that the UDO has wrapped.
 - You may nominate someone else or yourself.

8. New business

A. Videos & new book. Discussion of showings

- Linda was at a conference and one of the speakers had a book and a couple of videos which she purchased remembering that the EC used to have a library. The EC can watch the videos and see if we want to have a public showing of them. One is called Hometown Habitat, about raising awareness on native plants. Other one is about planting meadows in your yard. Linda has not seen them yet. Would be a good outreach opportunity.

B. 2020 activities: April 4 Garden Fair; May 9 SNAYL Day; April 20 effective day of Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule; April 22 50th anniversary of Earth Day

- April 22 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day – EC wants to coordinate with the city to make sure we are not in their way with Eco Heroes. City is doing their Earth Day celebration the Saturday before, so Linda reserved Council Chambers for the Saturday after. City has rented Switchyard Park, but details about what they are doing are not set. Earth Day planning meeting is coming up. Do we want to do something at their event? Can we have Eco Heroes be an hour long thing at the City event if there is an opportunity there?
- Tabling at garden fair, SNAYL day – no action to take now but to keep in mind

9. Commissioner announcements

- David: garden is in an 8ft fence, and deer can jump it. David will share first Earth Day story in April.
- Erica: next meeting will be Erica’s last meeting as a commissioner.
- Lindsey: next month will also be Lindsey’s last meeting because she is graduating and moving back up to Indianapolis.

- Andrea: HRI is out, was released Nov 12. The numbers Andrea reported out last time have been updated and the numbers in the online release are correct. Andrea would like to present on this at the EC sometime, the EC would be really excited to hear her.
- Andrew: Thank you all for your work on the UDO. Changes made will last for years, for the better.

10. Adjournment at 7:15pm.

Next EC meeting, 19 December 6:00 p.m., Hooker Room, City Hall