



**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.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION Minutes

18 March, 2021, 6:00 PM

1. Call to order and quorum confirmation

March 18th 2021 6:04PM

Sam Armstrong
Matt Caldie
Don Eggert
Daniel Gonzalez
Mike Litwin
Scott Shackelford
Andrew Guenther
Dedaimia Whitney
Dave Parkhurs

2. Introductions

New members

Daniel Gonzalez: 1st MPA student studying environmental policy

Sam Armstrong: is finishing undergraduate degree for environmental and sustainable studies. Works for a small restoration firm. Passionate about all things environmental

3. Approval of minutes

Motion to approve February minutes. Moved by Matt and seconded by Mike

Sam Abstained
Matt Approved
Don Approved
Daniel Abstained
Mike Approved
Andrew Approved
Scott Approved

4. Public comment: Limit 5 minutes per person, 20 minutes total

No public comment

5. Reports from TC, MoCo EC, BCOS, ERAC, MPO-CAC, FOLM, & MC-IRIS

MoCo EC: On the agenda it said the following: Talked with the MS4 coordinator for the county and discussed talking about recording with CATS

MC-IRIS: Seasonal weed labs were discussed. The 2021 winter creeper removal was discussed. The first activities have started at Griffy going through the end of the warm season. Juneteenth activities are up in the air. Good work removing invasives has been done at Southeast park. MC-IRIS will have an all-day event on Earth Day at Southeast park.

Linda's role at the Earth Day event will be introducing the Connectivity Plan. She will be doing that in partnership with the HAND department.

6. Discussion from Environmental Commission working groups: A Cycle

A Cycle

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

B Cycle

- A. Outreach
- B. ECPC/Plan Commission
- C. Biodiversity

Plan Commission: Windgate Inn motel on North Walnut Street will be converting a motel into a 3-story residential structure with 35 dwelling units. They are using the same building so there isn't much for the EC to do. The EC may look at the landscaping and invasives on the land.

The City Council Land Use Committee continued the Mcdoell property. All the public comment was against the property, so another hearing will be held on Wednesday the 24th. The EC sent out a memo against the property. Andrew will keep us updated on the process.

7. Old business

A. HT greenspace column

All edits have been made. Column was moved and seconded:

Sam Abstained
Matt approved
Don Approved
Daniel abstained
Andrew approved
Mike approved
Scott approved

B. Update on Connectivity Plan

Ben gave a brief report on the work he had been doing on the Habitat Connectivity Plan. Linda and Ben have decided to update the current plan with new information on what has been done in recent years to fulfill some of the goals already listed. The update will also contain specific actions to fulfill some of the other goals that haven't made as much progress as the EC would like. Some of the format will change as well. A future column can be written once the plan gets off the ground. We want to role it out before August for our

anniversary. We will look into contacting citizens about the plan and see if the town permits it. We could possibly go as private citizens door to door. This would just take people dedicating time. We could also print door hangers as well. We also may need to spend money on the anniversary party. We have around \$1200 appropriated to the EC (not guaranteed). We will need to pbudget the money wisely.

8. New business

A. BEQI & BEAP update process

The main project that the EC has chosen to work on this year is the BEQI. In the ordinance that formed this commission, it states that we are required to update this report. The first BEQI report was done was in 1994. It has not been updated in a while. The BEAP is more difficult to update because a lot of the measures we are looking for have not come out yet. So, we might want to wait to update this document. Multiple volunteers will be needed to help re-establish a working group to work on the BEQI (Don, Sam, and Daniel). We can maybe send out a survey to see who wants to work on each section. The BEQI will be sent out and at the next meeting people can chose which sections they want to work on after reading it. We will try to get done what people want to work on first.

9. Commissioner announcements

Mike has offered to write a history of the EC. He will write a list and a little description of all the EC projects over the years.

ECO Heroes and EC anniversary date is not coinciding well with other events. There are multiple events in September, but we also want to make sure students have enough time to work on their projects while they are in school. School starts August 4th . We will establish a date soon. Maybe Lotus could also display some of the projects. More time to prepare= more participation. It might be difficult to have two events. We should keep the events together so that it can be a big splash. We want to make sure Linda isn't spread too thin as well. Hopefully EC members will contribute to the process. Delaying the events also may give flexibility in terms of COVID. Delay the event until September. A panel of environmentally conscious people could be exciting for the events. We also need to nail down venues. A working group should sit down and figure out a plan to propose for next month. Andrew will send out an email about this. The more the merrier.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned

Next EC meeting: 15 April, 2021, 6:00 p.m., ZOOM