



Collierville Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

Attendees:

Crystal Warren	Courtney Gillespie	Julie Furr
Sheila Bentley	Joshua Balentine	Swetha Manivannan
Bill Looney	Susan Savage	John Fox (Town liaison)

The meeting was held at 500 Keough Rd, Collierville, TN and began at 6:30 pm.

1. Welcome: Crystal welcomed the new members and reviewed the by-laws, rules, mission, and attendance policies for the Commission. Each member introduced himself or herself and summarized any goals they had for the year as a Commission member.
2. Sheila moved to nominate Crystal and Courtney to continue to serve as Chair and Secretary, respectively, and that Susan serve as Vice-Chair. Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. After the group reviewed them, Sheila moved to accept the December minutes. Courtney seconded the motion. All were in favor.
4. Discussion of goals and projects for 2017:
 - a. A letter was sent to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) in December concerning recycling at schools, parks, and local businesses. Although we have not received a response yet, James Lewellen has said that he believes the BMA will be supportive but costs will be an issue. John informed the Commission that 3 recycling containers were placed at Cox Park as a pilot program to help estimate costs and get volume estimates for implementing recycling at parks. The Commission will continue getting a plan together to present to the BMA in the future. We also discussed possibly charging residents for bagged grass clipping/leaves going to the landfill, but the BMA has not been wanted to do this in the past.
 - b. The Great Backyard Bird Count is February 17th-20th. We will try to get an article in the paper to help promote this project as well as a photo in the town newsletter. Shelia and Courtney will work on printing promotional materials and distributing them to the schools.
 - c. The 50K (now 100K) tree-planting event is Saturday, February 25th. The Tennessee Environmental Council supplies the trees for free to be planted locally. In the past, the trees planted at Halle Lake have failed to thrive, so we will find a new location. Julie will

discuss planting location options with the landscape architect for Hinton Park, and Crystal will discuss other options with the parks department.

- d. Arbor Day is March 3rd. Since we are designated as a Tree City, USA member, we plant a tree each year for Arbor Day. We need to discuss with parks to find a location to plant. Replacing a tree at the arboretum at Johnson Park might be an option.
 - e. Earth Day is Saturday, April 22. The Commission discussed trying the Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle Contest again this spring on Earth Day. We would just need to edit the rubrics and rules and submit to all schools including the private schools. Courtney and Swetha will work on this. Also, the community response to last year's electronics recycling event was extremely positive even though it wasn't well advertised. Another electronics recycling event this spring would likely bring in even more residents and keep more electronics from ending up in the landfill.
 - f. Fair on the Square is May 6th-7th. We will need to discuss paying the booth fee as well as ordering supplies at future meetings.
 - g. We have previously approved sponsoring the installation of birdhouses on the southeast side of Johnson Park as part of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. The boxes are almost complete and should be installed in February. The final cost will likely be lower than previously thought.
 - h. We have previously proposed starting an award called Collierville Forward to recognize environmentally friendly local businesses and promote sustainability. Sheila shared example materials from the Arizona Forward program. We will need to come up with criteria and plan an awards banquet.
 - i. An on-going discussion among the Commission members has been diminishing use of plastic bags among residents. We have received verbal support from James Lewellen, and we will continue to pursue and discuss options.
 - j. Waste Reduction Awareness Program or WRAP (formerly called Rock and Wrap It) was also discussed. We will make informational flyers to distribute to elementary schools to help educate them and help them start a program.
 - k. We will try to work with the Collierville Schools Board in the future to ensure that they are considering green initiatives for the new high school
 - l. We still need to meet with the Parks department to discuss some of our common goals including recycling in parks and educational signs at Wolf River and Nonconnah Creek.
 - m. Since we are the Town of Collierville's Tree Board, we will seek opportunities to help with the revision of the town's tree ordinances and plan to have a Shawn Posey attend a meeting in the future.
5. Our budget is \$2000.00 this year, and we will plan how to spend these funds at future meetings.
 6. Bill moved to adjourn our meeting at 8:56 pm. Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor.