



## Collierville Environmental Commission

### Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2017

#### Attendees:

Crystal Warren

Joshua Balentine

John Fox (Town Liaison)

Sheila Bentley

Susan Savage

Robby Hanks (Town

Courtney Gillespie

Swetha Manivannan

Stormwater Coordinator)

Absent: Bill Looney and Julie Furr

The meeting was held at 500 Keogh Rd, Collierville, TN and began at 6:35 pm.

1. Approval of minutes: Sheila moved to accept the minutes. Courtney seconded the motion. All were in favor.
2. Discussion of goals and projects for 2017:
  - a. Recycling in the Parks: John updated the Commission on the recycling program being piloted in the parks. The program is continuing to improve and should see an increase during the warmer months as the parks are used more often by residents. The Commission discussed increasing the number of available recycling bins in the high school at the end of the year when students are cleaning out their lockers. Courtney will discuss with the high school administration to approve the addition of addition recycling bins for May.
  - b. The Great Backyard Bird Count (February 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>): Sheila will check to see if local participation can be estimated by zip code so that we can track resident interest in the program.
  - c. Arbor Day (Commemorated on March 30<sup>th</sup>): John ordered a Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) tree to commemorate Arbor Day and had it planted at Town Hall. The Arbor Day commemoration will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. Commission members are invited to attend.
  - d. Earth Day (Saturday, April 22): The Commission will sponsor the Repurpose and Upcycle Contest this year at the Morton Museum. The dates are: Thursday 4/27 (project drop-off), Friday 4/28 (judging), and Saturday 4/29 (Awards). Courtney has distributed the information to schools. A press release should to be sent to Mark Heuberger so that the information can be shared on the Town website. The awards from the 2016 contest will be used; however, the awards need to be engraved. Courtney will contact the Awards Place to have this done. Also for Earth Day, the Commission would like to host another electronics recycling event. Fortune Recycling, the company used last year,

has yet to respond about holding another event. Crystal will try to contact other companies. Susan will contact Patton Computers and Office Depot about the items they will accept to recycle.

- e. Fair on the Square (May 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>): Courtney moved to spend up to \$75 on the booth fee, and Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor. We will set up the booth and educational items on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Commission discussed featuring another rain barrel at the booth as a giveaway item. We could also use QR codes rather than making multiple copies of paper brochures with codes linking to information on our website. Josh will work on this option. We will also provide information from Tennessee Department of Forestry about the Emerald Ash Borer. Robby will promote water quality by bringing the storm water map and related brochures. Josh can get additional information regarding proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and take-back programs. Items that still need to be purchased include reusable bags with our logo as well as children's activity books. Sheila moved to spend up to \$1200 for educational items, expenses, a rain barrel, and printing costs for fair on the square. Sue seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- f. Bluebird Boxes: The dedication of the bluebird boxes will take place on April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. The Mayor and some aldermen will be present. Commission members are invited to attend.
- g. Collierville Forward: Sheila outlined some objectives as the Commission begins planning for the Collierville Forward program. The Commission needs to decide and discuss big-picture goals, establish a mission and vision, identify application deadlines as well as dates for the awards banquet, establish judging criteria, and promote the event. A few options for mission and vision statements were discussed. The Commission also decided to include awards for individuals, organizations, and businesses. Categories could include the Mayor's Award for Collierville's Future, Environmental Education and Communication, and Environmental Stewardship. Sheila, Josh, Swetha, Courtney, Sue, and Crystal volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee and will meet in the future to discuss details of the program.
- h. Diminishing Use of Plastic Bags: An on-going discussion among the commission members has been diminishing use of plastic bags among residents. We could include a card or brochure with tips to reduce plastic bags to be given out with reusable bags at Fair on the Square.
- i. Waste Reduction Awareness Program: The idea of the food recycling has been shifted to a composting plan. We will work with the new school to try to implement composting if possible.
- j. Green Schools: 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
- k. Collaboration with Parks: 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.
- l. Tree Board: As members of the tree board, we will each be a part of a subcommittee focusing on one aspect of the tree board's role. Bill, Sheila, and Julie will work to

update the tree ordinances, Susan and Courtney will work on education and outreach, and Josh, Robby, and Crystal will focus on riparian areas.

3. Most of our remaining funds will be allocated towards educational items for the fair on the square. Our new budget will begin on July 1.
4. Susan motioned to adjourn our meeting at 8:25 pm. Swetha seconded the motion. All were in favor.