



Collierville Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2017

Attendees:

Julie Furr

Susan Savage

John Fox (Town Liaison)

Courtney Gillespie

Joshua Balentine

Swetha Manivannan

Absent: Crystal Warren, Sheila Bentley, Bill Looney, Robbie Hanks

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

1. Approval of minutes: Courtney moved to accept the minutes. Joshua 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 and schools. The same level of contamination has been occurring in the recycling bins placed in Cox Park. We discussed moving cans to a different location. We also discussed the larger issue of public education as a means to prevent residents from placing food items and other non-recyclables in the bins. We could write a short article with pictures of the bins' locations.
 - b. Recycle Contest: Next year, we decided we should streamline the contest to have only one category for entry. We had such a small group this year, so we need some more incentives and better advertising to get more students and families involved. We agreed to have the contest in the late fall to coincide with America Recycles Day. We could perhaps offer a pizza party to the elementary school class with the most entries. We can also involve Boy Scout troops. Julie has some contacts for this.
 - c. Fair on the Square (May 6th-7th): We had another successful Fair on the Square. We had lots of interest in the rain barrel. Perhaps next year we could add more questions and have the colors match the colors on the wheel. We could also feature our informational brochures in a brochure display stand so that people can see them better. It was reinforced to us again this year that there is a big need for Collierville to have an amnesty day for hazardous waste. A large number of residents asked questions about local hazardous waste drop off and expressed aggravation that the closest one was in Shelby Farms.

- d. Bluebird Boxes: The dedication of the bluebird boxes was on Thursday, April 20 at 10 am.
 - e. Collierville Forward: The commission discussed how important yet daunting this project will be. It will require a large amount of planning to pull off successfully in 2017. We might have to push the first awards banquet to 2018. We will continue planning and discussing our options at our June meeting.
 - f. Diminishing Use of Plastic Bags: Our new order of reusable bags will be arriving soon, and we need to discuss how and when to offer these to residents. We discussed giving these away at grocery stores or possibly at the summer concert series on the town square.
 - g. Green Schools: We discussed creating a presentation to publicize the green features of the new high school. We will contact Mike Simpson and Louise Claney at Collierville Schools to coordinate our message as well as plan our presentation. Julie will contact the architects and designers, and John will talk to Bill Kilp and James Lewellen about the environmental impacts. Harrell Theater might work as a venue.
 - h. 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.
 - i. Tree Board: Julie has been reviewing the ordinances and will be putting together her notes to communicate with Bill and Sheila so they can communicate their ideas with the town coordinator.
 - j. America Recycles Day: We still want to sponsor the Recycling Contest as mentioned above, but we would also like to offer other recycling events or opportunities at this time. We talked about possibly having a town-wide resale/yard sale on the town square. Residents could register for a small amount (maybe \$15-20) and could have a designated area to offer household items for sale.
 - k. Rain Barrels: The commission was asked to donate a rain barrel at a fundraising event at the Agricenter to help educate the public. Courtney moved to pay up to \$150 for two rain barrels to be donated for this event. Susan seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. Budget: We still have about \$1000 left. We will discuss any spending at the next meeting.
 4. Closing: Farewell to our student member, Swetha! Thanks for your work this year! Swetha also drew the card for the winner of the Fair on the Square rain barrel. Robbie will contact the winner.
 5. Swetha moved to adjourn our meeting at 8:08 pm. Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor.