



## Collierville Environmental Commission

### Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2017

*Attendees:*

Julie Furr

Courtney Gillespie

Bill Looney

Susan Savage

Crystal Warren

Sheila Bentley

John Fox (Town Liaison)

Robby Hanks (Town

Stormwater Coordinator)

*Absent:* Joshua Balentine

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

1. Approval of minutes: Susan moved to accept the minutes. Bill 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. In Cox Park, the bins are either empty or full of garbage instead of recyclables even after moving the recycling bins right next to the garbage cans. 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. Ideas included partnering with the library on some of their educational events, creating lessons plans for teachers and distributing them to the schools, and creating a short video or article about recycling in the parks. John also updated the commission on recycling in the schools. Most of the schools are consistently filling the carts and putting them out to the curb for pickup, but a few schools are not as consistent.
  - b. Collierville Forward: To get this new program off the ground, the commission discussed having a more casual picnic featuring local food rather than a formal banquet. We discussed having giveaways, trivia, and environmentally friendly prizes like rain barrels. We could have November 2018 as our target date for this event which would give us time to plan and advertise. We could still have an America Recycles Event this November and use it to promote our future awards ceremony.
  - c. Diminishing Use of Plastic Bags: Susan will contact Aldi and the Farmer's Market about the possibility of us giving away our reusable shopping bags.
  - d. Green Schools: We discussed creating a presentation to publicize the green features of the new high school. 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. We discussed holding the event in September.

- e. Tree Board: Julie has been reviewing the ordinances and anticipates some pushback about any significant changes the commission wishes to implement. We discussed having Diane Dubois from the planning department come speak to us about the tree ordinances so that we are educated and prepared as we plan our updates.
  - f. America Recycles Day: America Recycles Day is on November 15, and the commission would like to hold an event that day to educate residents, promote recycling, and provide opportunities for residents to get rid of waste responsibly. Although residents have expressed interest in hazardous waste removal, this is not financially realistic for the commission or town to do at this time. We do hope to include drop-off for a shredding company, electronics recycling, a rain barrel workshop, the Recycle and Reuse Contest, and an informational expo at the Morton Museum. The expo will target businesses and organizations to promote Collierville Forward participation in the future.
  - g. New Student Member: Collierville High School senior Anurag Epparla applied to be our student member, and after review of his resume, the commission believes he will be a good fit. His application will be passed on to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for consideration.
  - h. Town Updates: John updated the commission on the prices for recycling versus landfilling materials picked up by the town. It costs \$26.20 per ton for recycling while the price is \$19.20 per ton to drop materials at the landfill. Collection costs are also higher for recycling. Yard waste taken to the landfill has dropped from 18,654 tons last year to 13,716 this year. The amount of yard waste that was mulched increased.
3. Budget: We have about \$850 remaining. We will spend some of our remaining funds on printing promotional items.
4. Bill moved to adjourn our meeting at 8:05 pm. Julie seconded the motion. All were in favor.