

Collierville Environmental Commission (CEC) Minutes

August 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Albert Grobmyer, Gary Siebenschuh, Joellyn Brazile, Wayne Kneipp, Crystal Warren and the new student member Swathi Ganesh. Hailin Swan was absent. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox.

The meeting opened with approval of the minutes from the May, June and July 2014 meetings. Crystal moved to accept the minutes with discussed changes. Gary seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sheila suggested that the Parks and Recreation Department create a sponsor system for tree signage purposes at the Johnson Park Arboretum.

Joellyn gave a quick recap of the Household Hazardous Waste facility that six members participated in on July 31st. Lisa Williams with Shelby County give the tour to Emily, Halin, Sheila, Al, Crystal and Joellyn. The tour was very informative and Lisa encouraged Commission members to spread the word about the facility, since the Town pays money each year to fund the facility. Lisa asked that during our next Fair on the Square booth we promote the use of using cat litter and old paint trays to dry out latex paint. She explained that although latex paint is not supposed to be accepted at the facility, they accept it because people don't know what else to do with it. She explained further that if the paint is dry (and using an old paint tray and cat litter is just one method), then it can be disposed of in the household trash can. Al suggested that we send Lisa a thank you note from the Commission. Wayne indicated that he would do that.

Wayne stated that he is working on a recycling article about where recycled materials goes to be published in the local papers.

Crystal offered to write an article on the Household Hazardous Waste facility to further promote the use of the facility.

The issues of providing recycling carts at the Summer Concert series and the 4th of July were discussed. John indicated that the material collected from both events were highly contaminated with waste material that can't be recycled (food scrapes, etc.) and that very little of the material was actually recycled. Commission members stated that recycle containers to be used at these type of events must be clearly labeled because people are not distinguishing them from garbage containers. Joellyn mentioned that she had a hard time finding a recycle bin at the 4th of July event and that because of the darkness, it was difficult to recognize it as a recycle bin. Commission members again suggested that a pilot program of introducing recycle bins

at some of the Parks would be hugely beneficial and that we need to discuss this with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA). Gary suggested drafting a letter to the new school board members about getting a more robust recycling program within each school and at school events (i.e. football games).

Wayne indicated that he had recently sent a letter to Chip Peterson regarding the possibility of watershed signage. Mr. Peterson explained that Park and Recreation has their own Commission, so both Commission's might need to work together. However, a third party is currently assessing all Town signs to create a comprehensive signage plan, so we might need to wait until the results are determined from this assessment before proceeding. Sheila suggested that we send a letter to the Parks and Recreation Department and/or Commission regarding the requirements to retain the Arboretum status and the need to signage on each of the trees. Wayne stated that he would need to give the Park and Recreation personnel a list of topics and proposed locations for signs that we would like implemented. Joellyn suggested we send three letters (BMA, Parks and Recreation Department and Park Commission).

Based on a question that had arisen in the past, it was confirmed that recycling is available at the Burch Library.

John spoke for a few moments regarding increased recycling rates already noticed by the availability of the 95 gallon carts to residents. He stated that there has been a 20% increase in participation and a 100% increase in the volume collected. He explained that in years past they would collect on average 2,000 tons/year, but based on the amount already collected, they hope to collect 3,000-4,000 tons/year. John indicated that the program was going so well, they are contemplating adding another truck. John also indicated that although we are allowed up to 8% contamination, we are getting nowhere near this amount of contamination. When asked about why this implementation has been successful, John mentioned several factors: 1) Convenience (boxes don't have to be broken down), 2) Larger carts (more can be collected), 3) Wheels (make the carts easier to roll), 4) Lid (contains the material easier and protects it from the weather), 5) Consistency of Town staff managing the pick-up. John stated that 10,400 had been distributed, leaving on 400 remaining.

Crystal moved the meeting be adjourned. Al seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.