

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2015

The July meeting for 2016 was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Courtney Gillespie, Joellyn Brazile, Bill Looney, Gary Siebenschuh, and Crystal Warren. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox. Charles Green was absent.

We began by reviewing the minutes from our June 14 meeting. Sheila moved to accept the minutes. Gary seconded the motion. All were in favor.

As we approach August, a new student member is needed. John will submit student member application information to local schools.

We had previously discussed becoming an organizational member of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Sheila will follow up with information regarding this as well as Collierville Forward at the next meeting.

Last year's Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle contest was a success, but the Collierville Literacy Council is no longer able to help sponsor. We discussed the possibility of the Commission putting this contest together ourselves. Sheila will review the costs from last year. We might need to secure additional local sponsorships to help promote and pay the costs. Costs include refreshments, medals, trophies, and prizes (some of which were donated); judges and the Morton Museum venue were both free.

Collierville has limited options for residents to dispose of unwanted or expired medications and as a result, they are often flushed down a toilet or put down a drain. The Commission attempted to have a secure drop-off box placed in front of the police department. TDEC would take care of emptying and properly disposing of the medications. Gary contacted Police Chief Goodwin to discuss the possibility of the police department housing the drop-off box. Unfortunately, the police have an existing contract with the DEA and were unable to commit to additional opportunities for residents to dispose of medications. The Commission will help promote and advertise the DEA Pill-Take-Back-Day.

The Commission is also trying to start a new program in Collierville Schools to reduce food waste and help feed children who might not have as much food available at home. Students would drop off unopened food items on their way out of the cafeteria. The food items would then be available for pickup by any student after school. Courtney discussed the idea with the Principal and Vice Principal at Collierville High School, and both were on board and excited about the program. The Commission is considering a pilot program at the high school level for a semester before branching out to other schools.

Next on our agenda was a budget discussion. Our annual budget is now \$2000, and we needed to plan projects to allocate our money.

Future projects and cost estimates:

E-cycling with the CHS Environmental Club – Free

Tree plantings – Free

Rock and Wrap It at CHS – bins/containers; donated fridge

Collierville Forward - \$100 for plaque/award

Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle Contest – not to exceed \$500

Arbor Day Tree - \$250

Educational Items and Classes - \$1150 (Fair on the square, reusable bags, seminars and classes, compost/rain barrels)

John provided some updates from the town. The Town now paying to dispose of recycled material to Recommunity since there are no other options available locally. John also reiterated the need to educate the public on the importance of grasscycling and separating regular trash from leaves and braches left at the curb.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.