

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2016

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

May meeting minutes were reviewed. Changes were noted. Gary moved to accept the minutes with the noted changes, and Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sheila discussed the TN Bluebird Society. Sheila, Gary, and Charles attended the Bluebird Trail dedication that was held at Hinton Park. The Bluebird walk starts along the west edge of the park and includes 10 bird houses with signs. The houses were made from recycled cedar wood. Sheila asked the CEC members if the CEC would be interested in becoming a member of the TN Bluebird Society. She indicated that the Society also does programs if we wanted to do a bird walk or presentation at the library. Sheila agreed to research more information about the Society, including how the CEC could become a member and if additional houses could be placed in a different park. Halle Park was suggested.

Sheila inquired with Bill regarding the next student member. Bill explained that he had already asked John to notify the schools, but that John had been ill. Since school was already out, notification would likely be delayed until the start of the new school year. Joellyn suggested that the CEC require the student member to have a goal, so that they have a more established purpose on the CEC. Crystal agreed and stated that the CEC members could offer guidance regarding goal options.

The recent Fair on the Square was discussed. It was agreed that a determination of how many people the CEC reaches would be beneficial. CEC members all acknowledged that no recycle bins were set up for the Fair and found the lack of recycle bins disappointing. Bill indicated that the 20th Century Club did not request them. Discussion regarding Town support of helping groups by providing recycle bins would be beneficial. CEC members agreed that kid friendly give-aways were needed for the Fair next year. Hopefully, items can be purchased which were not able to be ordered this year. CEC members also agreed that a set-up for the House Hold Hazardous Waste display was needed along with updated/current brochures.

Providing recycle bins at the 4th of July celebration at Powell Park was discussed. Due to the lack of permanent bins and difficulty seeing the bins as being different than trash cans, the CEC decided not to pursue recycle bins at the celebration. Joellyn suggested that the CEC meet with the Parks Commission members and discuss how to implement permanent recycle bins at the parks. Bill suggested that the CEC develop a plan. Joellyn indicated that she and a previous CEC member met with Parks several years ago and would look to see if we had a previous plan. Three topics were mentioned to discuss with the Park Commission: 1) recycling in parks; 2) signs along the Wolf River and 3) Arboretum signs.

Sheila suggested the CEC consider helping sponsor a bird walk this fall. She also suggested that we help host a bird ID night at the library on a Thursday evening to be followed by a bird walk on the following Saturday. Sheila indicated she would follow-up with MTOS.

Sheila reminded the CEC members that America Recycles Day is in November. She asked if the CEC was planning on participating in the Recycle, Reuse and Upcycle Contest like last year. However, she indicated that the Literacy Council will not be involved this year and is not certain the CEC can afford to sponsor the event alone.

Gary explained that he talked with Kathy Galapa with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Office of Sustainable Practices about installing an unwanted pharmaceutical drop-off center. Gary advised the CEC members that the drop-off location must be located and secured at the local police department and that he was planning on meeting with the Collierville Police Chief to gauge interest.

Gary indicated that he talked with Jan Compton with the TN Department of Environment and Conservation, Office of Sustainable Practices about food recycling in schools called Rock It and Wrap It. Courtney stated that she could talk to the Collierville High School principal, who has contacts for the other schools, so that we could set up a meeting to gauge interested in this program.

Sheila discussed the idea of creating a "Collierville Forward" award/certification program. This type of program is used in other cities and provides awards for healthy communities. Sheila suggested that we discuss the idea with the BMA to start this type of program in Collierville. Sheila also suggest that for Earth Day next year, the CEC could provide environmental awards. Applications would need to be submitted. Sheila offered to discuss the idea with Maureen Frasier and/or the Chamber of Commerce. Joellyn suggested that John Duncan might also be a good contact, since he is so familiar with local businesses.

Bill advised the CEC that the BMA had set aside \$2,000 for FY2017. However, if the CEC needs more then we need to justify such increase. Bill explained that \$2,000 is \$500 less than previous budgets, but for the past 6 years, the CEC has spent \$2,000 or less. Joellyn indicated that we may have spent less last year, but that we were not able to order everything we wanted to for FY 15/16. Sheila suggested that the CEC prioritize our future efforts, then determine how much money will be needed. Sheila also suggested that we need to determine a way to measure success of our priorities. Joellyn reminded the CEC members that the BMA provided their top 3 priorities for the CEC several years ago and that she didn't believe we accomplished any of the suggest priorities. Joellyn suggested that we review those selected priorities and ensure our budget can cover them so that they can be future goals.

Bill asked the CEC members to help publicize the free compost leaf give-away and suggested that the CEC help with a spring give-away event. Bill also explained that ReCommunity is now charging for recycling loads, which is costing the Town more money than previous years. He indicated that the CEC should find a way to encourage citizens to grass cycle.

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.