

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2016

The March meeting for 2016 was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Bill Looney, Gary Siebensschuh, Mary Lennox Halfacre, Joellyn Brazile, and Crystal Warren. Commission members absent were: Courtney Gillespie, Sheila Bentley, and Charles Green. No Town of Collierville representative was available for the meeting.

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

Crystal gave a recap of the 50K Tree Planting event that occurred on February 27th. Over 50 volunteers attended and although only a few trees were provided by the TN Environmental Council, everyone enjoyed the event. Crystal stated that she would complete the TEC survey and note the lack of trees that were provided. Hosting another tree planting was discussed, since the Boy Scouts expressed further interest. However, the trees would need to be ordered by March 15 and can only be delivered by FedEx or picked up at the nursery location. Commission members decided to postpone another tree planting until January 2017 so that trees could be obtained in advance of the next TEC 50K Tree Planting event or Arbor Day celebration.

Crystal provided an update of the Arbor Day celebration that was held on March 4, 2016. Neither John Fox nor Bill Kilp were able to attend; however, the Mayor, several Aldermen and Commission members attended. In honor of being a Tree City USA for 11 years, Shawn Posey with the Division of Forest provided the Town with a flag, hat, and "11 years" stickers. Gary stated that he would inquire with the library about flying the flag at the library for the month of April signifying Earth Day.

Crystal stated that she would contact the Town's finance department to inquire about prizes that could be awarded should we decide to hold an Earth Day contest. Crystal reminded the Commission that Bill has requested that we consider creating a catchy slogan to promote environmental awareness to be placed on the Town's garbage and recycling trucks. It was agreed that "Collierville" should be included in the slogan. Crystal indicated that she would ask John about a character limit for the slogan.

Due to Sheila's absence, the Spring Educational Events was not discussed, since she was taking lead in a Green Living and Birds migration session.

Crystal reminded Commission members about the upcoming Wolf River Watershed Public Meeting to be held at St. George's Collierville Campus. It was suggested that the CEC have a booth/table on Saturday April 23rd. Having stormwater, river, watershed and general environmental trivia questions was discussed. Winners could win free give-aways. Having a map of the drainage area of Collierville was also discussed. Commission members were encouraged to attend the evening session as well, which will be held on April 21st. Joellyn agreed to discuss with the Wolf River Conservancy and/or St. George's about ensuring recycle bins are provided for both dates.

The upcoming Fair on the Square (to be held May 7th and 8th) was discussed. Mary Lennox agreed to help man the booth, so a CEC shirt was provided to her. Having fair goers complete a survey was discussed. CEC could give a list of important topics to fair goers and have them rate them in order of importance to them. A list of important topics would be obtained from Bill and/or John. Crystal mentioned that a rain barrel would be raffled off-provided by the Town's Engineering Department. Information regarding the benefits of using reusable bags instead of plastic bags needs to be created to handout at Fair on the Square when reusable bags are provided to fair goers.

Recycling was discussed. The Town's current recycling brochure may need to be updated since June 2016 marks 2 years of having the 95 gallon recycling carts. Commission members agreed that some residents still may not be aware of what can be placed in the carts due to observations in their neighborhoods. Updated brochures could be handed out during Fair on the Square. Joellyn agreed to discuss the issue with John.

Gary moved to adjourn the meeting. Crystal seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.