

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2015

The October meeting for 2015 was called to order at 6:40 PM. Commission members present were: Crystal Warren, Bill Looney, Courtney Gillespie, Albert Grobmyer, and Sheila Bentley. The Town of Collierville representative was Emily Harrell. Our new student member was absent.

The commission began by reviewing the minutes from the previous meeting. Bill moved to accept the minutes from last meeting, and Sheila seconded the motion. The motion passed.

On Thursday, September 17, the commission hosted a composting class conducted by Carl Wayne Hardeman. There were about 10 participants. A composting bin was given away, and all seemed to enjoy the class.

The group agreed that we should continue having similar events quarterly. Suggestions included a native plant workshop, more rain garden workshops, and a class on overall green practices. Sheila suggested Gary Boyd as a speaker for a winter workshop on how to incorporate "green" into your lifestyle. The group will continue planning this at the next few meetings for a possible January date for the workshop.

Saturday, October 17 is the Bird Walk at Johnson Park Boardwalk from 7:30 – 9:30 am. Rob Harbin will conduct the bird walk.

The Recycle, Upcycle, Reuse Contest will be held on November 14. Commission members will need to act as judges for the Recycle and Upcycle components on Friday, November 13. Wayne, Gary, Crystal, and Courtney volunteered to help with this. Sheila has registered the event as an official America Recycles Day event.

Emily compiled lots of information about the possibility of Collierville beginning a composting program. The bins would be around \$40 each when 100 are purchased. Residents could preorder and pay the full amount as a possible way to cover the initial expenditure for the bins. We decided to present the idea to several neighborhood associations to gauge interest. Possible regulations include limiting the number of composting bins to one per household, keeping the bin a certain distance (5 ft) from the property line, and ensuring they are not visible from the street. We may also need to have more composting classes in the future.

Emily also provided updates from the town. Her grant money helped rebuild the outdoor classroom at Collierville High School with the help of Eboni Leake's students. They fixed the erosion problem and made a rain garden. Collierville public services helped dig and provide sand, mulch, and compost. Later, with the help of Wolf River Conservancy, a shade structure will be added.

Courtney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.