

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016

The April meeting for 2016 was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Crystal Warren, Courtney Gillespie, Gary Siebenschuh, Sheila Bentley, Joellyn Brazile, Charles Green, and Crystal Warren. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox. Our student representative was Mary Lennox Halfacre.

We began by approving the minutes from the March meeting. Gary moved to accept the minutes, and Courtney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Next we discussed recycling at Collierville High School. Courtney received an update from Eboni Leake at the high school and shared this information. Currently the high school has four large recycling bins located in the teacher work areas for paper only. The problem with the current program is finding reliable volunteers to help take the carts down to the curb and ensuring only paper was placed in the bins. The commission discussed possibly having a contest between schools in Collierville as an incentive for students to participate.

We then reviewed our budget. We currently have \$1300, and we have planned to purchase new giveaways for Fair on the Square. We will be purchasing water bottles, reusable bags, coloring books, seeds, and pencils made of recycled tires. We discussed that these giveaways are an important part of our mission to educate the public and promote environment issues in the community, so we will spend most of our remaining funds on these items. We also have two rain barrels being donated to giveaway, but we will need to supply the additional parts. Courtney moved to spend the remaining money in our budget on promotional items and rain barrel parts. Gary seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Gary spoke to Joshua Sudeth at City Hall about flying the Arbor Day flag for 30 days, and they have agreed to do so. The flag is currently up.

Earth Day is April 22. In the past, we have discussed having a public service announcement video contest or catchy slogan contest for Earth Day. Since we still haven't received information about spending money for prizes, we have decided to table these contests until next year. Sheila also shared a book on significant trees in Tennessee and suggested a similar, local contest for Collierville in the future as well.

We have been planning several spring educational events. Sheila is still in the process of scheduling events with Gary Boyd. We will also plan a bird migration walk possibly in May.

The Wolf River Watershed meeting hosted by TDEC and the Wolf River Conservancy will be held at St. George's School this year. An informational meeting will be Thursday, April 21 from 5-7 pm. This will include a short presentation by Joellyn and informational booths. A family field day and picnic will be held at the river on Saturday, April 23 from 9 am – noon. Gary, Sheila, and Courtney volunteered to help at the booth.

Fair on the Square will be on Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8. Commission members signed up for times to work at our booth to giveaway the promotional items that we previously agreed to purchase.

Crystal and Joellyn attended the Tennessee Environmental Conference and shared some information about a food-sharing program that they heard about. Some schools in Kingsport, TN have started a program similar to "Rock and Wrap It" to help reduce food waste and meet the needs of hungry children. Students in the school place unused and unopened foods in bins to be given away later rather than throwing them in the garbage. The commission will investigate the possibility of implementing a similar program in Collierville Schools in the future.

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