

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2015

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

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

John submitted the information and applications for student members to local high schools including Collierville High School and St. George's Independent School. Shelia suggested getting recommendations for new student members from former members in the future as well.

Since our last meeting, Sheila researched the possibility of the Commission joining the Tennessee Bluebird Society. The rates vary depending on the group and sponsorship level. A chapter membership costs \$125 while a corporate sponsorship costs \$150 and includes our name on their website. Schilling Middle School has recently become a member and will have a bluebird trail near campus, and the Commission discussed the option of sponsoring a similar trail at Collierville Middle School. We could include signage with the Collierville Environmental Commission logo. Courtney will contact Jon Tupper, an assistant principal and former science teacher, at Collierville Middle School.

We now have a date in place for our next bird talk and walk. The informational talk on birds will be Tuesday, October 11 at 7 pm at the Morton Museum (if available) lead by Jay Walko. The following Saturday morning (10/15) will be the bird walk in Johnson Park lead by both Rob Harbin and Jay Walko.

Sheila also had a very productive conversation with Town of Collierville Alderman Maureen Fraser to find out any projects or ideas that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen had in mind for the Commission. Projects included a town-wide e-cycling option for curbside pickup, passing on information about hazardous waste, getting information about the new tree ordinance, participating in a "day of service" similar to the program at FedEx, and adopting a trail to help clean up.

Since the logistics of a curbside electronics recycling pickup would be very difficult, the Commission discussed hosting an e-cycling event at the high school. Crystal has been in contact with Vincent Yu of Fortune Recycling to setup an event in September. Courtney will discuss with the school the option of using the high school parking lot for the event and getting student volunteers to help. Sheila moves to request that we use 10% of the money collected from the e-cycling event to be used to help cover the expenses for the Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle contest. Gary seconded the motion. All were in favor.

As we begin to plan for this year's Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle contest, we discussed asking businesses and groups including the Collierville Education Foundation, CHS PTSO, Patton

Computers, and others to help sponsor the event. Gary moved to sponsor the contest using \$500 of our budget. Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor. The contest last year cost around \$600, excluding prizes that were donated. We would like the event to occur in conjunction with America Recycles Day on November 15. Sheila will schedule the events with the Morton Museum, but we hope to have participants turn in projects on Tuesday, November 15 with judging on Friday, November 18. We will announce the winners on Saturday, November 19. Our judging criteria will remain the same as last year.

We are continuing to plan for our Rock and Wrap It food-recycling program in schools. We can receive some donated funds from the Office of Sustainability to help cover costs. We will also need some certificates to serve the food to students.

Sheila also suggested that we discuss our big picture goal as a Commission so we can focus out educational efforts and promotional items. For example, we could focus on water quality, recycling in public places, or reusable bags. We would like for it to be something we could measure.

At 8:02, Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary seconded the motion. All were in favor.