

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2016

The December meeting for 2016 was called to order at 7:05 PM at the home of commission member Sheila Bentley. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Courtney Gillespie, Bill Looney, Gary Siebenschuh, Charles Green, and Crystal Warren. Swetha Manivannan, our student representative, and Bill Kilp, our town representative, were present as well. Joellyn Brazille was absent.

We began by reviewing the minutes from our November meeting. Sheila moved to accept the minutes with minor changes. Charles seconded the motion. All were in favor.

We began by reading over a list of accomplishments to be sent along with a letter to the Board of Mayor and Alderman. Crystal will finalize these items after our review and submit it to James Lewellen (Town Administrator) for submission to the BMA.

Next, we continued our discussion on our involvement with the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Schilling Farms Middle School will be sponsoring the bluebird trail behind the school. The commission previously agreed to pay up to \$300 to sponsor a trail in town, and Johnson Park has been discussed as an option. We do need to get approval from the Parks Department first. We will try to have a joint meeting with parks in February.

Due to low applicant turnout, the 2016 Recycle, Upcycle, and Reuse contest was cancelled. Schools and newspapers should be notified earlier next year if we wish to have the contest again.

Sheila had a discussion with James Lewellen concerning the Arizona Forward environmental initiative and the possibility of starting a similar program here. Commission members are asked to attend a meeting tomorrow (December 14) at Town Hall to continue the discussion that Sheila began. He has already shown interest in the Collierville Forward idea and suggested a few ideas including an awards banquet to announce winners, categories, and how to nominate.

After more research, the high school environment might not be well-suited for the Rock and Wrap It Program. Swetha and Courtney will work on creating an informational handout to send to middle and elementary schools where the program might work better.

As the Town works to revise the Tree Ordinance, we would like to play an active role since we are the town's tree board as well as the Environmental Commission. Crystal will send an email to seek out ways for us to be a part of the revisions.

As we wrapped up the meeting, Crystal suggested that in the upcoming year, we take a new approach in our goals. Each member could possibly take on a lead role on a project for the year. We also have three new members that Bill announced for the upcoming year. Joellyn Brazile, Gary Siebenschuh, and Charles Green will not be serving on the commission in 2017. Crystal also recognized Gary for his outstanding service to the town as a long-time member of the commission and his commitment to local environmental causes.

At 7:45, Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Courtney seconded the motion. All were in favor.