

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

The January meeting for 2016 was called to order at 6:35 PM. Returning commission members present were: Bill Looney, Courtney Gillespie, Gary Siebenschuh, Sheila Bentley, and Crystal Warren. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox. Our student representative, Mary Lennox Halfacre, was also present. New members for 2016 are Joellyn Brazile and Charles Green. We welcomed them to the commission and reviewed our mission and bylaws with them.

We began by electing officers for the new year. Sheila nominated Crystal as chair of the commission, Gary for vice-chair of the commission, and Courtney for secretary. Joellyn seconded the nominations. All were in favor.

Next, we approved the minutes from the December meeting. Gary moved to accept the minutes, and Sheila seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Then the commission began discussing our goals and projects for 2016. Coming up in February is the Great Backyard Birdcount. Sheila agreed to help pass the information out to schools. We also discussed hosting another bird walk on Saturday 2/13 and a bird basics class on Saturday 2/6. Sheila will find the speaker for the class, Crystal will book the library, and Joellyn will help promote the event.

In the past, commission members were needed to help judge the science fair at Incarnation Catholic School. Gary will find out and let the commission know if we are needed.

Last year we participated in the 50K Tree Planting Event sponsored by the Tennessee Environmental Council. This year the event is on February 27. Crystal will follow up with more information at the next meeting.

Arbor Day is Friday, March 4. We will plant a tree at the new Hinton Park in Collierville. Gary moved to spend up to \$300 on this tree, and Courtney seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Earth Day is April 22, and the commission will have several events for this. The commission discussed the possibility of educating the public about reusable bags as our Earth Day initiative. We discussed ideas to research further including discussions with Kroger and Aldi. We also plan to hold the Public Service Announcement contest that we initially discussed last year. Crystal will follow up with information about prizes. Another contest idea could be for residents or students to come up with a Collierville-specific slogan that might be showcased on recycling trucks or elsewhere in town.

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 and a family field day and picnic will be held at the river on Saturday, April 23. Commission members are asked to attend.

Fair on the Square will be May 7-8 this year. Our booth fee has been paid. We will need to order more supplies for giveaways as the event approaches.

Since the Recycle, Upcycle, and Repurpose Contest was such a success, the commission agreed to do this again in conjunction with America Recycles Day in November. We will begin planning in July to have information to teachers and the public in August.

There will be another *Around Town* published in the Spring/Summer so any updates need to be passed along the Jennifer Casey.

Courtney moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Lennox seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.