

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2016

The September meeting for 2016 was called to order at 6:45 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Courtney Gillespie, Bill Looney, Gary Siebenschuh, Charles Green, and Crystal Warren. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox. Joellyn Brazille was absent. Our new student member, Swetha Manivannan, was also present.

We began by reviewing the minutes from our August meeting. One item needed to be added to the minutes, and after that brief discussion, Gary moved to accept the minutes. Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor.

We then welcomed our new student member, Swetha Manivannan to the commission! Swetha is a senior at Collierville High School and was recently accepted by the board of mayor and aldermen to join the Environmental Commission for this school year. Crystal reviewed the bylaws with Swetha and the commission members introduced themselves.

Next, we followed up on events planned for September from previous meetings. Thursday, September 15 is the International Day of Listening. Sheila and Gary have volunteered on behalf of the CEC to listen to residents at town hall from 1-4 pm. Also, on Saturday, September 24 from 9am – 1 pm, the CEC will host an Electronics Recycling Event in the Collierville High School parking lot. Courtney, Gary, and Crystal have volunteered to attend the event. Courtney will secure student volunteers to help unload materials from the cars of residents. Swetha agreed to help advertise the event using social media.

In addition, the CEC will host a bird talk and bird walk in October. The bird talk will be from 7-8pm on October 11 at the Morton Museum while the bird walk will be on October 15 in the early morning. Sheila will confirm all dates and times with the speakers. The commission will change locations for our monthly meeting due to the bird talk's date and time. The commission will meet at the Morton Museum directly before the bird talk beginning at 6 pm.

The Recycle, Reuse, and Upcycle Contest is still planned for November. The rules from last year need to be edited and updated. Gary and Courtney agreed to work on this. Crystal will register the contest with America Recycles Day.

Courtney and Swetha plan to meet with Chip Blanchard, principal of Collierville High School, next week to discuss getting the Rock and Wrap It program started in the second quarter of the school year. We need to decide how to successfully advertise the program, which foods to collect, and how and where to store the food.

We also need to renew our Tree City, USA application. Since we can receive up to 300 free seedlings, we agreed that we should order the maximum number and find a location for planting later. While on the topic of trees, we discussed the Tree Ordinance for Collierville. Since the tree ordinance needs to be updated soon, we believe that the commission should help advise. We will contact the planning department about this.

A few items will remain on the agenda to be discussed at future meetings including Collierville Forward, recycling and signage at Johnson Park, the Tennessee Bluebird Society, and possible participation in a storm drain adoption program.

At 8:08, Swetha moved to adjourn the meeting. Courtney seconded the motion. All were in favor.