

## Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2015

The first meeting of the 2015 year was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Courtney Gillespie, Albert Grobmeyer, Wayne Kneipp, Bill Looney, Gary Siebenschuh, and Crystal Warren. Swathi Ganesh, the student representative, was absent. The Town of Collierville representative was Bill Kilp. Emily Harrell, the Town's Senior Civil Engineer, was also present.

The meeting opened with an approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Sheila moved to accept the minutes with minor changes. Gary seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The seasoned Commission members welcomed the new Commission members, Courtney and Bill L. Wayne distributed a current contact list to all members with everyone's contact information. Also, Wayne distributed a list of the Commission's accomplishments in year 2014 to the new members to give them an idea of what the Commission does. Additionally, Commission members briefly explained the Commission's mission and highlighted several rules in the Charter, including attendance policy, conflict of interest, and Sunshine Laws. Next, Commission members voted for the 2015 positions. Gary nominated Crystal for Chair, and Wayne seconded the motion. Crystal accepted, and the motion passed unanimously. Sheila nominated Wayne for the position of Vice Chair, and Gary seconded the motion. Wayne accepted, and the motion passed unanimously. Sheila nominated Courtney for the position of Secretary, and Wayne seconded the motion. Courtney accepted, and the motion passed unanimously. The Commission thanked Wayne for all of his hard work and efforts in fulfilling the position of Chair in 2014.

Next, the Commission members suggested potential projects for the upcoming year.

- Al brought a newspaper article documenting the successes that New York City has had with the collection of residential compost material. Al suggested that the Town, with the help of the Commission, implement residential compost material pick-up. Bill K. and other Commission members stated that Collierville is currently trying to give away its collection of leaf compost from residential leaf curbside collection, and the Town is not quite ready to add additional material such as food wastes. Bill K. mentioned that third parties have examined the Town's leaf compost material and considered it very high quality compost. However, the Commission members agreed that it would be a good idea to promote at-home composting to residents. Sheila suggested publishing quarterly and/or seasonal articles on materials that are compostable. Also, Courtney and Emily discussed implementing a pilot program at the high school's greenhouse. The pilot program would be dependent on Emily obtaining grant money. Wayne suggested promoting composting along with the grasscycling literature. Crystal described the organization Project Greenfork to the members and explained that one of the requirements for the Project Greenfork certification is composting. Crystal told Al that she would give Al the contact

information for the founder of Project Greenfork, and perhaps the Commission could collaborate with this organization to encourage more businesses to participate.

- Emily told the Commission that she wants Collierville to participate in the 50K Tree Day, where 50,000 trees are planted in one hour across the State of Tennessee. The event is on February 21<sup>st</sup>, with more details to come.
- Wayne voiced his desire to continue efforts to offer recycling at the local ball parks. Bill stated that the issue was the amount of contamination that is likely to occur in such a public setting. However, he stated that if a plan was formalized, he would review it. If the plan was feasible, he would broach the topic with Chip Peterson (Director of Parks and Rec).

Emily provided an update for the Rain Garden Workshop. The workshop will be held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 9 am at Town Hall. The event is free to the public (RSVP with Emily).

Participants will create a rain garden in the Town Library lawn. During December's meeting, the Commission approved the expenditure of up to \$300 for supplies for the event.

Wayne provided an update for the Seedlings Giveaway at Crosswinds Elementary School. In order to promote Arbor Day, Town Beautiful wants the help of the Commission to separate trees for distribution at Crosswinds. The event is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>. More definitive details regarding the event are needed.

The next Great Backyard Bird Count is scheduled for the weekend of February 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>.

Wayne and Sheila briefly described the event. Sheila stated that she would send information about the event to local school contacts to encourage participation. Wayne volunteered to help Sheila distribute the information.

Arbor Day is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Bill stated that he would schedule an event with the Mayor and Board of Alderman to plant a tree. A brief discussion occurred on where to plant a tree. Commission members thought one of the Collierville schools would be a good location for planting. Gary motioned to spend up to \$300 for a tree for this event. Courtney seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Al wanted the Commission to recognize John Fox for being elected the position of West TN Branch Director for American Public Works Association. Congratulations, John! Also, the Town won the 2014 Recycler of the Year Award in the category of Government from the Tennessee Recycling Coalition. The Town won this award based on the increase in recycling since the implementation of the 95-gallon recycling carts. Congratulations, Collierville! Bill K. provided additional Town updates. The new recycling program is going really well.

Approximately 11,000 households recycle. Bill K. stated that it would be beneficial for residents put their recycling out to the curb for pick-up only with the cart was full. This would assist the collection crew in completing their runs in a more timely manner. Also, residential curb-side leaf collection is keeping those crews very busy. There are lots of leaves.

Additionally, composted leaves may be picked up from the waste transfer station on Saturdays from 8 am – noon. Lastly, Bill K. stated that lots of trash is deposited on the new

section of Hwy 385 that runs through Collierville. He asked for ideas on how to discourage littering and the release of loose debris from waste collection trucks.

Wayne stated that Swathi is organizing an E-waste event at Collierville High School as a fundraiser. More information on this event is needed.

Emily requested a Letter of Support from the Commission for a 5 Star – Urban grant proposal. Emily explained that, if awarded, the grant money would be used to fund educational events, such as composting at the high school. Al motioned to sign the letter of support, and Sheila seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Gary volunteered to help write the letter.

Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill L. seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.