

Collierville Environmental Commission Minutes

February 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Wayne Kneipp, Gary Siebenschuh, Hailin Swan, Joellyn Brazile and Crystal Warren. Sophie Morgan, the student representative, was also present. Albert Grobmeyer arrived late. The Town of Collierville representative was John Fox.

The January minutes were distributed and reviewed. Gary Siebenschuh moved to accept the minutes as written. Sheila Bentley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Wayne asked for an update on the Great Backyard Bird Count. Sheila stated that she had created a contact list for all the local schools. She sent an email to all the schools on 1/29 to notify them about the upcoming GBBC. Shelia also made posters, which included information about how to participate, and delivered them to the schools. On 2/10 Shelia sent all the school contacts an email, reminding them of the event. Sheila also indicated that Lela Garlington with Commercial Appeal had contact her about doing a story. Shelia gave her the names of a few notable bird watchers in the area. Joellyn indicated that Lela had also called her wanting information and a photograph to use in the article. Lela is to meet Joellyn on Thursday afternoon to take pictures of Joellyn's children bird watching. The article should run on 2/15. Both Joellyn and Sheila explained to the other members how to participate in the GBBC and the tools and resources found on the web site and identified several birds that are common in the area.

Wayne reminded the Commission that Shelia, Albert and Gary will be science fair judges at the Incarnation Catholic School on 2/19.

Wayne and Crystal informed Commission members about the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council workshop they attended in Cookeville on 2/6. Crystal indicated that the workshop lasted one day and was attended by 23-24 tree board members from across the state. She stated that the workshop focused solely on trees (how to plant, how to prune, etc.). A lot of guidance was given. Crystal indicated that some of the information presented didn't apply to the Town's tree board (which is also the Environmental Commission) based on how the responsibilities of the other tree board vs. the responsibilities of the CEC. Wayne indicated that they learned about opportunities from the other boards. Crystal discovered that the other boards highly promote tree planting within their respective cities. Wayne was given a Tree City notebook, which contains a lot of information. The Commission members decided that the notebook should be given to the Town's Parks and Recreation Department. Wayne and Crystal suggested that flyers regarding tree care being created and housed at the library for citizens to pick-up. Crystal suggested that we place other brochures at the library for citizens as well. The Division of Forestry's representative Shawn Posey was supposed to attend tonight's meeting. Wayne indicated he would reschedule the meeting with Shawn. Crystal stated that Shawn needs to participate more in our tree board meetings. Crystal stated that one of the issues that the other boards expressed was the lacking of funding. Sheila informed the Commission that she read in the newspaper about an organization that was giving away seedling trees. Joellyn reminded the Commission that Arbor Day would occur prior to our next meeting. She also stated that we need to be thinking about how to

distribute the seedling trees that we will be given at the ceremony, since it seems to be a struggle each year to find homes for the trees. Hailin asked if the trees could be given to the schools. Gary explained that schools don't usually want trees as small as what we're giving away and reminded the Commission of the difficulty he had with giving the trees to the new Collierville middle school last year. However, Gary indicated that when the Town has its own municipal system he hopes that we'll have more flexibility in outreach/education opportunities with the schools, including planting trees. Sophie suggested using school environmental clubs. Wayne suggested dedicating tree plantings each year to notable persons of the Town, such as the Mayor and Alderman. He also indicated that Shawn Posey stated that Collierville's tree canopy cover is ~30%, which is low. Wayne stated he would summarize his notes from the Workshop and share. To conclude discussion regarding Arbor Day and trees, Joellyn motioned for the expenditure for up to \$200 for the purchase of a tree for the Arbor Day celebration tree planting, which will likely be the 1st Friday in March. Sheila seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Sheila suggested a press release go out prior to the celebration to encourage citizen involvement in the celebration.

Items to be purchased as give-aways at the Fair on the Square were discussed. Joellyn suggested using the web site www.branders.com to purchase additional reusable bags, pens, travel drink containers and other items, upon which Collierville's web site information can be placed. Sheila suggest items such as seedling trees, biodegradable leaf bags, bird seed, flower seeds and bird identification pamphlets. John suggested attaching the Town's composting brochure to seed packets if we decide to order seed packets. Albert suggest ordering child friendly options like a Frisbee and attach the Commission's logo. John suggested ordering items that could heavily promote the Town's new recycling containers in an attempt to increase residential recycling rates. Gary mentioned a mini recycling cart as a give-away item and would provide more information on it. Gary indicated that he saw a mini-cart at a conference and thought it would be a good idea for promoting our new carts. Wayne suggested the Commission utilize up to \$1000 for the purchasing of need items for the Fair. Sheila moved the motion, Crystal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Wayne informed new members that they needed to buy a white polo shirt and have the CEC logo stitched on it in time for the Fair. Joellyn gave Cathy Hiskee's information to the group and indicated that she has applied the logos in the past. Sheila suggested the Town pay for the new shirts. John indicated he would look into that option.

John indicated that the Town ordered enough 95 gallon recycling carts for 75% residential participation, even though the current participation hovers around 50%. He indicated that Public Services is currently conducting a survey to have a firmer participation number and document who is not recycling. He stated the use of the new carts will begin June 30, 2014. The Town has spent ~\$515,000 to buy new carts and the new trucks have been ordered. John asked how many carts would be needed to service the Fair on the Square, the Summer Concerts and the 4th of July, so he could provide recycling carts with the holes in the top. He indicated they would be the same color as the carts that will be utilized for curbside pick-up. Members indicated that between 12-15 carts should be sufficient. Commission members indicated the need for permanent recycling receptacles to be located in Town managed areas such as the Square and Parks. John suggested that we gather information about the use of the carts during the 3 events this summer, then follow-up with the BMA about implementing a more permanent collection opportunity at those locations.

In conclusion Joellyn reminded the Commission regarding the goals of the BMA, which included river/watershed signs at the Wolf River and Nonconnah Creek.

Gary Siebenschuh moved that the meeting be adjourned. Sheila Bentley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.