

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2015

The February meeting for 2015 was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Courtney Gillespie, Albert Grobmyer, Wayne Kneipp, Bill Looney, Gary Siebenschuh, Crystal Warren, and Swathi Ganesh. The Town of Collierville representative was Bill Kilp. Emily Harrell, the Town's Senior Civil Engineer and Christine Donhardt from Memphis-Shelby County Office of Sustainability were also present.

The meeting opened with Crystal introducing Christine Donhardt as our guest speaker. Christine spoke about the tree give away on March 10 for Collierville Elementary School. Kids will help sort and bag, so CEC volunteers are not needed as previously thought. Christine went on to summarize the office core work of the Shelby County Office of Sustainability including a recycling summary, new projects including the Green Prison Initiative, Low Impact Development, and a Greenprint Project. Crystal suggested we email Christine to get on her office's monthly email list to more information on sustainable projects.

Next, Swathi updated the group on the CHS Environmental Club's E-Waste Recycling project that will take place on March 28 from 1-5 pm in the CHS parking lot near Frank Rd and Byhalia Rd. It was suggested that the Environmental Club partner with the Town of Collierville and the Office of Sustainability to help promote the project. The group discussed the items that will be collected with some input from Christine who is familiar with these projects.

Gary moved to accept the minutes from the January 13th meeting. Sheila noted a minor spelling error and seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the group received an update on the Great Backyard Birdcount. Materials were distributed to all Collierville Schools. Photographs are encouraged so that they may be added to the town newsletter. Sheila clarified some confusion about how to collect data. She informed the group that you may submit multiple times during the collection dates and that you also submit the highest number of birds seen at once. The dates are February 13th-16th.

Emily updated the group on the Rain Garden Workshop that is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at 9 am at Town Hall. She is expecting 25-30 people to participate, and she will provide additional information as the date approaches. The workshop will be primarily informational in the morning with the actual installation in the afternoon. Participants need to be dressed to work.

The 50K tree-planting event was discussed as well. The date is February 21* from 10-11 am. The location is the northeast side of Halle Park. Emily will be able to deliver the trees to anyone who requested them for other sites. Bill L brought up the need for a soil amendment to plant. Various methods were discussed for digging holes to plant- shovels vs. hammers. Any volunteers will need to register online and sign the waiver.

*The 50K Tree Planting event has been rescheduled for March 14 due to inclement weather.

The Arbor Day tree planting is Friday, March 6th at 11 am at Collierville Middle School. Mark Gray, a science teacher, has been contacted about planting, and he has designated a spot on the Northern Island of the property. The mayor has been invited as well as several aldermen. The tree (which has been planted) is a 4 inch red maple that cost the commission \$195. The commission previously approved up to \$300 for this tree.

The next item on the agenda was the Fair on the Square that is scheduled for May 2nd from 10 am – 6 pm and May 3rd from noon – 5 pm. Crystal summarized the role of the commission for the new members including question/answer game for free items, a ladder with information about household waste, and information about the new recycling bins. The commission will need to pay a fee of \$60 for the booth at the fair. Gary motioned to submit the funds for the booth, and Wayne seconded the motion. The motion passed. The discussion turned to this year's focus. Emily suggested rain barrels including a demonstration with water moving through a concrete block. Shelia brought up having a store like Lowe's donate a barrel for a giveaway. Gary suggested getting a list of supplies/instructions for making your own as a giveaway.

Inventory of give-away items left from last year:

12 reusable bags (need to order more)

65 recycling coloring books

73 Bird books

390 post-its

~100 pens

20 Aluminum carabineer bottles

5 recycling bins

163 seed packets

It was agreed that water bottles were a good item for all ages. It was suggested that we order BPA-free plastic with a larger opening. Crystal will investigate prices. Other items that were suggested include doggie waste bags, "can the grease" cans, and small recycling bins.

The new members were informed that they would need to purchase a white polo to be embroidered with CEC logo for Fair on the Square. Sheila moved that the commission reimburse new members for their shirt up to \$25. Gary seconded the motion. The motion passed. Swathi, Emily, Bill L, and Courtney need shirts.

Earth Day is April 22, and our theme is "It's our Day to Lead." This needs to be promoted in our schools. Sheila mentioned previous projects including poster contests and t-shirt contests. Gary suggested a photography contest. Swathi suggested a student-made PSA that could be submitted to you tube and judged by the commission. The clip should not exceed 1

minute and can be submitted by an individual or a group. Prizes include a certificate and Yolo gift card. Swathi, Bill L, and Wayne will be on the subcommittee.

Crystal then gave updates to the group. Emily received a recommendation letter (thanks Gary!) for her grant for education in schools for the Schoolyard Habitats Program. She will find out if she receives funding in July. Crystal then brought up the idea for a potential site visit for the commission to the Kroc Center or elsewhere.

Bill K provided the group with updates from the town.

He informed the group that Recommunity is the only company available in our area to provide recycling. However, they will soon be negotiating a lower revenue stream.

We have recently run out of the large recycling carts, but a new shipment just arrived. 11,000 total bins are in use.

The town has just appointed a new alderman, John Stamps. Welcome, Mr. Stamps!

The town will receive a recycling award this month. Bill K and John Russell (Sr Crew Leader) will accept the award. Congratulations!

The town has also recently purchased a new rear-loading garbage truck.

Getting signage on 385 to reduce litter on that highway is in the works.

Al spoke with Project Greenfork's executive director, Margot McNeely. She will get back to him soon, and Al will update us.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.