

# Collierville Environmental Commission Minutes

March 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Commission members present were: Sheila Bentley, Albert Grobmeyer, Gary Siebenschuh, Hailin Swan, and Crystal Warren. Wayne Kneipp attended via teleconference. Joellyn Brazile and Sophie Morgan, the student representative, were 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. Gary moved to accept the minutes as written. Crystal seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Commission members re-capped the events in which they had participated since the previous meeting. Sheila summarized the Great Backyard Bird Count by stating that the final numbers of participants and birds had not been finalized. Next, Sheila, Albert, and Gary described their venture in assisting Incarnation Catholic School judge the school science fair. Out of approximately 82 science fair projects, twenty-one of the projects focused on environmental-related topics; each of these projects received a certificate from the Environmental Commission. Finally, Wayne and Hailin explained the activities surrounding the Town's Arbor Day celebration in Halle Park. Other Town representatives present at the tree planting ceremony were the Mayor and several Alderman, as well as Division of Forestry representative Shawn Posey. Hailin suggested the idea of Commission members actually planting a tree during the 2015 tree ceremony. Emily Harrell described the City of Lakeland's Arbor Day tree planting ceremony which involves City personnel digging a hole in the ground the day previous to the tree planting. Individuals celebrating Arbor Day plant the tree in the hole and ceremoniously add dirt. City personnel ensure that the tree is planted properly and maintained appropriately.

Next, Emily explained that the Town's Engineering Department is applying for a stream restoration grant through the TN Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) TN Healthy Watershed Initiative program. If grant money is received, the Town plans to restore 1900 feet of the Queen Oaks Ditch located between White Road and Powell Road. This portion of the stream is severely eroded and prone to flooding, and the grant money will be used to stabilize the bank using both hard armor and native vegetation. Emily requested the Commission to support this project by submitting a written endorsement. Other organizations involved with the project are TDEC, West TN River Basin Authority, and Wolf River Conservancy. Gary motioned to submit the written endorsement, and Hailin seconded the motion. Crystal abstained from the motion due to her affiliation with TDEC. The motion passed unanimously amongst the remaining Commission members. Wayne stated that he would print the endorsement on Commission letterhead and email to Emily.

The next topic of discussion was Fair on the Square. Commission members deliberated on which give-away items would be most beneficial to purchase and distribute at Fair on the

Square. The various items suggested were mini recycle bin receptacles, travel tumblers, tote bags, wildflower seeds, and educational bird books. All items had the potential to be labeled with the Commission logo. Members agreed to purchase 100 of mini recycle bin receptacles for approximately \$302, 100 packets of wildflower seeds for approximately \$100, and 159 educational bird books for approximately \$259, for a total approximate cost of \$661. Bill informed the Commission that purchase information should be sent to Wayne, who will then submit the information to John Fox for final purchasing. The Commission then discussed how the give-away items would be distributed. Members agreed that the public should have to answer a question related to an environmental topic in order to receive a prize. Members agreed to each create five questions by the next meeting to contribute to the pot of questions. Crystal volunteered to email Shelby County Hazardous Waste program and Memphis/Shelby County Office of Sustainability to inquire if those organizations had any give-aways to donate.

Emily described City of Lakeland's "Get Caught Recycling" program. City personnel keep a list of households that recycle. Once a month, a random sample is generated from that list, and City personnel check to see if a random household recycled that week. If the household did recycle, then they received \$100, and an article with a photograph is published in the local newspaper. Commission members liked this idea and agreed to discuss implementing the program within the Town.

An update from the Town was requested from Bill Kilp. Bill briefly described where the Town currently is in implementing the new Town-run recycling program. The Town's goal for the newly run program is to increase residential recycling to 75%. Bill also mentioned that the Town has noticed a decrease in the number of bagged grass over the past year. Bill encouraged the Commission to continue promoting grass-cycling.

Sheila moved that the meeting be adjourned. Gary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.