

Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2015

The March meeting for 2015 was called to order at 6:30 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 John Fox. Emily Harrell, the Town's Senior Civil Engineer was also present.

We began by reviewing the minutes from the last meeting. A few changes were noted, including the spelling of YouTube.com. Gary moved to accept the minutes. Sheila seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, the group discussed several upcoming events. Emily provided an update on the tree giveaway at Crosswind Elementary School. Although the event didn't occur as planned, the students still enjoyed an educational experience. Emily then gave the group information about the upcoming Rain Garden Workshop that will take place on 3/12. Weather conditions have changed the planting dates, but the workshop will still occur as planned from 9 am until 3 pm.

The Arbor Day event was rescheduled to Friday, March 13 at Collierville Middle School. Crystal will be out of town and is unable to attend; Wayne will speak briefly at the event in her place. Gary mentioned having the school fly the tree flag on this day.

The 50K tree-planting event was discussed as well. This event will occur on March 14th at Halle Park. Emily informed the group that signs were created to designate the area with the new trees as a "Reforestation Area." Two boy scout troops have shown interest in helping. 200-300 trees will be planted from 10 am to 11 am.

Swathi updated the commission on the Collierville High School Environmental Club's Electronics Recycling Drive. This event will take place in the high school's parking lot on the corner of Frank Rd and Byhalia Rd on Saturday, March 28 from 1 – 5 pm. Swathi has contacted Patton and Fedex for possible partnerships.

April 2 there will be an event hosted by the UT Agriculture Extension called Tennessee Smart Yards. The cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple and includes 2 soil tests, a canvas bag, and a rain gauge.

Next, the commission decided on promotional items for the Fair on the Square. We will order clear 24 oz BPA-free water bottles with a green logo. This will cost \$349 for 100 bottles. We will also order 100 black reusable bags with a green logo for \$149. Finally, we will order 100 bone-shaped doggie waste bag dispensers for \$239. There will be a \$50 setup fee. Wayne motioned to spend up to \$1000 at the company Branders for the promotional items mentioned above for Fair on the Square. Gary seconded the motion. All were in favor.

There will be a signup sheet at the next meeting for commission members to work shifts at the Fair on the Square.

Emily brought up our previous idea of have rain barrels at the Fair on the Square as well. We will provide the parts for the rain barrel to giveaway at a cost of \$25-30. Barrels can be donated. Gary motioned to buy 2 rain barrel construction kits at Lowes or Home Depot for a cost of \$75. Al seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Crystal provided the group with a budget update. Our annual budget is \$2500 from July – June. Expenditures so far have included the following:

- \$195 for the Arbor Day tree
- \$60 for the Fair on the Square booth
- \$300 for the Rain Garden Workshop
- ~\$100 for polo shirts for new members
- \$737 - \$887 for promotional items for the Fair on the Square (\$150 price difference depends on set-up fees per item- see details below)
- \$75 for rain barrel construction kits
- \$150 for Earth Day Contest

We then heard updates on the upcoming Earth Day Public Service Announcement (PSA) Contest. There will be a 1:30 time limit, and entries can be submitted form groups or individuals. The wording on the flyer needed to be updated to read “all high school age residents of Collierville” as those who are eligible. The deadline for submissions is May 8. Submissions can be emailed; videos can be viewed on the Collierville public information channel. The videos will be judged by the commission at the May 12th meeting. Pending approval that Visa gift cards are allowed, prizes will include a \$100 Visa gift card for first place and a \$50 Visa gift card for second place. Sheila moved to authorize \$150 for Earth Day PSA Contest. Bill L seconded the motion. All were in favor.

John F provided the group with updates from the town.

Recycling is currently at 75% participation. Ice and snow delayed several pickups. Trash was collected on time.

Crews have also been very busy repairing the potholes that the winter weather caused.

Finally, Al updated the group on his communication with Margot McKinney at Project Greenfork. While she is currently too busy, she did encourage us contact restaurants and start small by asking to eliminate plastic bags and polystyrene.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.