

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2011**

In Attendance:

Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair
Greg Sunday, co-vice chair
John Backscheider
Dave Colteryahn
Veronica Craig
Jim Herrmann
Mike Lane
Boyd Miller
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by co-vice chair Greg LoBuono.

Minutes: Meeting minutes for June 1, 2011 were approved with no corrections.

Welcome: New member Dave Colteryahn introduced himself and gave some background as to why he applied for this Commission.

Standing Business

Correspondence and Articles: Veronica found an article about the threat of the Asian Long Horned Beetle and another describing the quest to find the biggest trees across the U.S.

Ben reported that he took a phone call about an oak on Lindenwood Lane being a possible contender in Fairfield's Big Tree Contest. Boyd will go and measure it.

Greg Sunday shared photos from River Sweep which he helped to organize in May.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L./4, Greg S./4, Mike/1.5, Jim/2, Boyd/5, Dave/3, Veronica/3, Liz/4.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Due to the heat wave, Veronica reported that she was not able to finish her scheduled cleanup. She will redo both sides of Muskopf Road before the next meeting.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that a parcel of 10 acres of the Huffman Farm on John Gray Road (bordering the west side of the golf course) has been donated to the City. Plans call for half of this land to be used as an interpretive learning center. The other 5 acres will be used in the future for improvements to the First Tee Program. \$600,000 has been allocated to begin the project.

Greg Sunday passed on a suggestion from Tim McLelland concerning the lack of benches and shelter for those who helped with the River Sweep Project. Volunteers had no place to sit after the cleanup. Ben and Greg discussed setting up tents and bringing in picnic benches from other locations for the event. The EC will make sure that this issue is brought up again next spring when plans for River Sweep are being made.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben included the stats for the last two months in this meeting's packet. Once again, there was an increase in page views: 111 in June, 149 in July.

Neighborhood Beautification: This year the City has targeted the Nilles/Hicks residential and business area for landscaping and tree planting. CIP funds will pay for this project.

Miscellaneous: Ben discussed the purchase of two large solar powered trash compactors. Duke Energy will help with the funding for this CIP project. These "Big Bellies" will be placed in high volume trash areas and will be used in tandem with recycling. When a compactor is full, it wirelessly communicates that it needs to be emptied.

Commission Reports

Arts Fair: Veronica reported that the booth hosted by the EC was busy most of the day. For the second year in a row, children could make Father's Day cards from an array of craft materials, much of it recycled. In addition to card making, commission members answered questions and registered residents for the upcoming Street Tree Lottery.

Street Tree Inventory: Liz and Ben did a trial run using the new computer system. An August or September date for further training will be scheduled by those who wish to participate.

Other Business

Ordinance Review: Ben included a copy of Wendi's comments in this month's meeting packet. Many of her suggestions dealt with "housekeeping" issues such as clarifying the EC Mission Statement, taking another look at the EC name and logo, and updating information. Discussion followed. Members were asked to continue the review and to provide comments and suggestions back to a core group who will write the revisions.

EAB Management Plan Review: Some of the information in the plan has changed and should be updated. Items such as cost analysis, contact people, and treatment options will be rewritten.

Calendar:

EC Meeting – Wednesday, September 7, 2011, 6:00 pm, CAC
Street Tree Inventory -- TBA

Adjournment: at 7:05 pm.