

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2013**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Tom Nault
Chuck Ullrich
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absent: Brian DeRoo, Mitch Rhodus, Rodney Spencer

Meeting was called to order at 5:59 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Minutes: The minutes for June's meeting were approved with one correction to the spelling of Becky Montag (not Montague).

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: The EC shared recent articles spotlighting the ALB's destruction of 10,000 trees, the newest drinking water consumer confidence report, and an update on Hamilton's tree ordinance. Discussion of Fairfield's current ordinance followed.

Veronica sent cards to Ben Strickler and to Bob Breen expressing the EC's appreciation for the years that they worked with this commission.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/1, Greg/2, Becky/2, Tom/2, Chuck/1, Veronica/3.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Tom did double duty this time and picked up both at the end of July and the beginning of August.

Greg and Becky will take care of the September clean-up, and Greg and Veronica will do the following one in October/November.

Parks Board Report

Rodney Spencer, the new Parks Board Liaison, was unable to attend this meeting, so there is no report this month.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Bob included last month's statistics in this meeting packet. 57 people visited the EC website in June, and 49 in July.

Walnut Twig Beetle: In this month's meeting packet, Bob included a copy of a July 24th letter to area communities from the Ohio Department of Agriculture about the appearance of a new pest that preys on walnut trees. This beetle carries a fungus that can damage or kill one of Ohio's most prized tree species. To assess the extent of the infestation, the ODA is conducting a trapping survey in Butler, Hamilton and Warren Counties.

Memorial Grove name change: At last month's meeting, Dave requested that each EC member bring suggestions of a permanent name for the new park on Banker and Nilles Roads. Many options were discussed, and eventually a name was chosen: Pleasant Run Honor Grove. All

members were very pleased because this title not only recognizes the creek that has reclaimed its floodplain, but it also denotes the area's new purpose.

Bob has had five or six requests by families for trees to be planted in honor or memory of loved ones. The Grove should be able to accommodate their requests with trees available for planting this fall. After the family chooses the species in their price range, the tree will be planted at the City's convenience. The family then will be notified that the tree is in the ground, and where it is located. Memorial/Honor Trees can be purchased throughout the year, but all planting will be done either in spring or fall.

The EC hopes to have a detailed brochure available to residents at next year's Home Expo.

Pleasant Run Honor Grove master plan: Although Jim Montague could not attend this month's meeting, he forwarded a large aerial map detailing his final planting layout for the Grove. This plan will incorporate many species of trees, providing color and texture in every season. To maximize this effect, Jim has placed a number of the same species in groupings. These "mini groves" will give more continuity and visual impact than random planting.

The EC is excited about Jim's plan and is grateful for the time and talent that went into creating such a comprehensive, ambitious layout. Whether residents walk the paths, visit "their" special tree, or simply drive by, the Pleasant Run Honor Grove will be a source of pride and enjoyment for our community.

Other Business

Meeting Change: The EC discussed upcoming meetings and felt that they needed to focus on the Honor Grove for the next two months, especially since the first planting will be this fall. Therefore, members voted unanimously to move the Water Treatment meeting/tour from next month to November 6. The September and October meetings will be held at the CAC.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – August 20, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – September 4, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Adjournment: at 7:14 pm.