

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2015

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair

Greg LoBuono, vice-chair

Veronica Craig, recording secretary

Tom Nault

Gwen Ritchie

Adam Sackenheim

Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Rodney Spencer, Parks Board Liaison

Absent: Becky Montag, Chuck Ullrich

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for last month's meeting were approved with two corrections. First, the street tree inventory discussion should be noted as on the docket for next month's discussion. Secondly, the word "disease" was missing from the 2nd paragraph of Standing Business.

Correspondence/Articles: Dave located an updated list of tree inventory management software, which he forwarded to Wendi.

Rodney discussed an article from *The Enquirer* about planting milkweed to attract Monarch Butterflies. Although this has already been done at Huffman Park, EC members expressed an interest in making seed available to homeowners at the Home Expo.

Hours Spent on EC Activities: Dave/2, Greg/1.5, Tom/1, Gwen/1, Chuck/2.5, Adam/2, Veronica/4

Adopt-a-Roadway: Becky will do the January/February clean-up as weather permits.

Parks Board Report

Rodney reported that the Board reviewed 2014 accomplishments in various categories, checking to see where they stood in 5 different sections, several of which relate to the EC. In addition, policies and procedures, along with rates, were reviewed. The January meeting always sets the rates for the venues, and they are posted on the website and appear in the upcoming newsletter.

Parks Department Report

Website statistics: As of December 1st, the website is being revamped. The data shows that there were 51 hits for December. The Tree Legacy page had 42.

Tree City USA: Bob received a "save the date" postcard from Wyoming, this year's host city. More information will follow next month.

Tree Inventory: Bob and Ben feel that, despite a tremendous amount of old paperwork and an old computer program, this is all outdated, and the inventory program must be revamped. Recent planting records from Public Works might facilitate this process; however a new computer program must be found. Adam is working with Miami University to have some of their Grad Students help with this project. They may be familiar with such a computer program. The EC will welcome any recommendations. Dave requested that the EC think about why an inventory should be done, and, ultimately, what will be done with the data. Is it useful?

Home Expo Tree Selection: Last year the EC ordered 400 seedlings. This year they will order 400 as follows: 200 Eastern Redbud, 100 Red Oak, and 100 Hornbeam.

Miscellaneous: Since the question of whether firewood can be moved out of Butler County (answer: NO! The quarantine still stands!) led to a discussion about an article on 1000 Canker Disease, and about supplying residents with more information.

Commissioner Reports

Miami University Internship: Adam spoke with Susie from MU Grad Student Program on January 28th. Students are available after August, however some are international students and, thus, timing may be an issue. He will be calling her back soon.

TCA Project for Freshman Class: Bob sent the information requested by the three attendees. They will meet at the CAC and do their "homework" next week.

Other Business

Last month Rodney requested that the EC review the completed Master Plan, especially as it pertains to this Commission. This month members discussed various components of the plan, including park amenities, and access and connections within and between parks. The EC wants to support the Master Plan and help realize goals for the next decade.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting -- Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., CAC

EC Meeting -- Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., CAC

TCA Sophomore Class -- March 23 & 24, 2015, 8:30 am, Hamilton, OH

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo -- April 11, 2015. 9:00 a.m., CAC

Tree City USA Awards Luncheon -- Friday, April 17, 2015, City of Wyoming

Adjournment: 7:38 p.m.