

**Environmental Commission Meeting
January 6, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Chairperson Dave Colteryahn

In Attendance

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig
Tom Nault
Rita Rings
Gwen Ritchie
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absent

Becky Montag
Two positions remain open following resignations.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the November 4th, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles

Dave mentioned that the City of Cincinnati study on street trees and sidewalks concluded that the sidewalks were the problem and not the street trees.

Gwen had information about a downtown Columbus, Ohio park. She also had an article about Baltimore, Maryland's program to link parks and people. And she shared a brochure on the 2016 Home Horticulture series of meetings.

Roni had an article about Bradford pears entitled "When good plants go awry." She also mentioned that the Metro Parks of Butler County were building a hiking program based upon success in 2015.

Rita expressed her concern about mudflows covering the walkways around the pond in Huffman Park around Christmastime.

Hours Spent on EC Activities

Dave/1, Greg/1.5, Gwen/1, Tom/3, Roni/0.5, Rita/1, Becky/1

Adopt-A-Roadway

Becky and Rita performed the clean-up on Muskopf during December.

Parks Board Report—Bob Schappacher

No agenda items to report. The Parks Board is waiting to seat a full board in April before assigning a member to the Environmental Commission.

Parks Department Report—Bob Schappacher

Bob handed out the detailed 2015 annual work plan for the City's Forest Program.

The Tree City USA awards luncheon is scheduled for Friday, April 22nd in West Carrollton.

Dave Butsch plans to attend the February meeting. Bob was given several items that we would like Dave to address.

Environmental Commission terms for Becky, Gwen, and Tom are expiring. Gwen and Tom plan to reapply and Becky does not.

New signs have been installed for the bee hive and wildflower area at Huffman Park. The butterfly sign has also been redone.

Bob will add a near-term program bullet to future agendas.

Commissioner Reports

There were no new nominees for the Friends of Fairfield Forest award.

Other Business

At the March meeting, the Environmental Commission will review the letter sent to participants in the Honor Grove program at Creekside Park.

An unanswered question was raised about the role trees will play in the landscaping around new schools.

Calendar

Parks Board meeting—January 19th, 2016 at 6:00 pm @ CAC

EC meeting—February 3rd at 6:00 pm @ CAC

TCA Senior Class—February 29th at 9:00 am in Hamilton

TCA Graduation—March 14th at 10:00 am in Hamilton

Tree City USA Awards Luncheon—April 22nd in West Carrollton

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo—May 14th at CAC

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm