

**Environmental Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
June 1, 2011**

**In Attendance:**

Liz Hunter, chair  
Veronica Craig  
Jim Herrmann  
Mike Lane  
Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair  
Greg Sunday, co-vice chair  
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative  
Wendi VanBuren, ODNR Urban Forester

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

**Minutes:** April's meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Welcome:** New member Jim Herrmann introduced himself and gave a bit of background on why he decided to apply for a position on the EC. He replaces longtime member Steve Welte.

**Standing Business**

**Correspondence and Articles:** Liz wrote a note to Papa John's Pizza thanking them for their generous donation of pizzas to feed the volunteers at May's River Sweep clean-up.

Veronica shared an article about treating EAB and another describing the history of Mount Airy Forest.

**EC Activity Hours:** Liz/1.5, Greg S./8, Greg L./3.5, Mike/1, Jim/1, Veronica/2.5

**Adopt-a-Roadway:** Bob will be doing the May/June clean-up and Veronica will be responsible for July/August.

**ODNR Report**

**Guest:** Wendi VanBuren, ODNR's representative for SW Ohio, was in attendance.

>She presented the Tree City Packet because no one from the EC was able to attend April's Tree City Luncheon in Tipp City. Next year's luncheon will be held in Amberly Village on April 20, 2012.

>Wendi shared information about ODNR's Tree Commission Academy, a series of four groups of classes designed to instruct tree board members. The cost is \$35 for each set of two days and the class projects are valid for Growth Awards.

>The Celebrated Streets Project sparked the EC's interest. Ohio has more Tree Cities than any other state and more treed urban canopy. This project gives communities a chance to share photos of exceptional tree plantings. The EC would like to participate.

>Wendi gave an update on EAB infestation and management. Every county in Ohio is affected. Research has shown that preventative treatment is more effective than treating after-the-fact.

Greg S. asked about creating a seed bank to develop resistant ash trees. Wendi explained that there are genome projects that are crossing ash trees in an attempt to breed EAB resistance.

>She provided the EC with a new EAB poster and information that will be displayed on the board at the Arts Fair.

## **Parks Board Report**

Ben, filling in for Bob, explained that the FYBA was in attendance at the last Parks Board meeting, and that they were going to look into parking concerns at Waterworks Park.

## **Parks Department Report**

**Website Update:** Ben included the May stats in this meeting's packet. Once again, there was an increase in page views.

**Street Tree Inventory:** Ben provided the EC with the new Fairfield map, as it appears on the website. This version is faster and more interactive. In addition, he passed out a map of voter precincts to be used in the upcoming inventory.

## **Commission Reports**

**Great Miami River Sweep:** Greg Sunday reported that, despite the very high river level, the turnout for the event was excellent. Over 50 people volunteered for our area's clean-up. Papa John's donated pizza.

Greg mentioned that Tim McClelland would like to see benches or even a shelter along this stretch of the river. The EC will pass this idea along to Bob Breen.

**Arts Fair:** The EC will host a booth at the upcoming event, which will be held at the CAC on Saturday, June 18 from 10:00-4:00. Again this year, the EC will sponsor card making for Father's Day, in addition to providing urban forest information and EAB updates for the community. Liz will set up Saturday morning, and Veronica will do the afternoon clean-up. Other members signed up to help either in the am or pm.

## **Other Business**

**Ordinance Review:** Ben explained the Street Tree Ordinances to new member Jim. These deal with such issues as prohibited species, distances and clearances, etc. These ordinances were adopted in the mid-90's and were reviewed and updated five years ago. Discussion followed. The official name will be under review. Members were asked to continue the review and to provide comments and suggestions at the next meeting.

Wendi was asked if she had seen any changes for prohibited trees in our area. She mentioned that some communities are finding that the various varieties of ornamental pears have proved invasive. She cited a study by Theresa Culley, and will e-mail a copy to EC members. She recently reviewed the ordinances and will pass on any suggestions she may have.

**July's meeting:** A motion was made and passed to cancel the July EC meeting, due to vacations, etc. The Commission will next meet on August 3.

### **Calendar:**

Arts Fair – Saturday, June 18, 10-4, CAC

Street Tree Inventory Training – Monday, June 20, 10am, meet at CAC

EC Meeting – Wednesday, August 3, 2011, 6:00 pm, CAC

**Adjournment:** at 6:58 pm.

