

**Environmental Commission Meeting
March 2, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairperson Dave Colteryahn

In Attendance

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

Absent

No absences
Two positions remain open following resignations.

End of Term

Becky Montag is retiring from the Environmental Commission at the end of her term on March 31st. The Commission expressed gratitude for her service.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the February 3rd, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles

Roni reported on bamboo as an invasive species. She also reported on a design firm donating its services for a Hamilton ‘pocket park.’ And she had an article about wood thieves chopping down walnut trees. Rita reported that the monarch butterfly population was up 30% at one site in Texas. And she also reported that Park programs were being promoted in the Sacred Heart bulletin.

Hours Spent on EC Activities

Dave/1, Greg/1, Tom/14, Roni/14, Gwen/12, Becky/0, and Rita/3.

Adopt-A-Roadway

Tom is responsible for March/April. Dave brought up the issue of safety vests and Bob will investigate the matter.

Parks Board Report—Bob Schappacher

Youth Soccer made a presentation to the Board and expressed appreciation for the use of the fields. The Board has a 5-yr business plan goal for golf and the aquatics center to become self-funding.

Parks Department Report—Bob Schappacher

Bob presented the tree seedling form for Arbor Day trees. It was decided to order 150 Eastern Redbud, 125 Bur Oak, and 125 Tulip Poplar.

The Tree City USA awards luncheon is scheduled for Friday, April 22nd in West Carrollton. Bob presented the Living Legacy Tree Program form letter. It was reviewed and accepted as submitted.

Bob listed the 2016 goals for the Environmental Commission as follows:

- 1) Tree Nursery at Huffman
- 2) Tree maintenance program for Huffman and Creekside
- 3) Rain gardens for Huffman or Harbin

The Commission added the following:

- 4) A fall meeting with the Hamilton Tree Commission

Concerning item 2 above, Bob submitted existing maintenance procedures as a potential guideline for a tree maintenance program. Dave offered to develop a first draft of the program and share it for review before the April meeting.

The Commission agreed to work a booth at the Farmers Market on April 27th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. It will be like a mini Home Expo including seedling distribution. Tom will create handouts for bur oak and tulip poplar. A handout already exists for eastern redbud.

In place of a volunteer appreciation dinner, there will be a June pool party for volunteers.

Commissioner Reports

There were no new nominees for the Friends of Fairfield Forest award. The 2016 recipient will be chosen at the April EC meeting in hopes that a presentation could be made during the City Council meeting on April 25th in conjunction with the Arbor Day proclamation.

Other Business

Tom reported that he had contacted Kroger concerning donation of 500 reusable shopping bags for distribution at the EC booth during the Home Expo. He was told that we are not eligible because only organizations with a 501(c)(3) charitable determination are eligible for donations. Dave will pursue an alternate source.

Calendar

Parks Board Meeting—March 15th, 2016 at 6:00 pm @ CAC

EC Meeting—April 6th, 2016 at 6:00 pm @ CAC

TCA Graduation—March 14th in Hamilton

Tree City USA Awards Luncheon—April 22nd, 2016 in West Carrollton

EC Booth at Farmers Market—April 27th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo—May 14th, 2016 @ CAC

Programs

Brush Chipping—March 12th @ Groh Lane—8:00 am to Noon

Let's Go Hiking—March 19th @ Marsh Lake—10:30 am to Noon (FREE)

Senior Nature Series—April 4th @ Huffman Park—1:00 pm to 2:00 pm (FREE)

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm