

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2013**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Chuck Ullrich
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absent: Greg LoBuono, Tom Nault, Mitch Rhodus

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Guest Introduction: Ken Williams, newly retired from P&G, is now in Miami's graduate program. As part of his research in environmental studies, he has asked to sit in on an EC meeting. Members welcomed him.

Minutes: The minutes for the April meeting were approved with three corrections.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Dave shared an article about a woman who was able to limit her non-recyclable trash for one year to a shoebox. Additionally, he had an article ranking Cincinnati third in nation for the most types of items that can be recycled.

Veronica had a copy of Dave's photo from the tree planting at Huffman Park. She also brought in an article about recycling cloth.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/7, Becky/7, Chuck/2.5, Veronica/10.5.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Becky and Veronica will do the next clean-up, followed by Greg and Tom for June/July. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at next month's meeting.

Parks Board Report

Bob Breen reported that the Board had a short but informative meeting.

- > Operational numbers were discussed.
- > House Bill 173, which details how to handle head injuries in sports, was reviewed.
- > The Board voted to move monthly meetings from the 2nd to the 3rd Tuesday.
- > Two interviews were conducted for commission positions. Tom Nault was appointed to the Environmental Commission. Another community member will serve on the CAC Board.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Bob included last month's statistics on the last page of the EC meeting packet. The numbers have gone up, probably due to the warmer weather.

Ash Grant Update: Ben has submitted all remaining paperwork. The City will receive a reimbursement check as per the grant agreement.

Memorial Grove: Bob will call Jim Montag to see if he is ready to present the final plan for the Grove plantings at the June meeting. The Water Department has been contacted, and Greg Morrow's crew will install the water lines Jim Montag recommended within the next month or two.

The City of Fairfield won a buckeye tree at the Tree City Luncheon. It will fit in nicely with Jim's plan, and he chose the appropriate spot for it. The City Park Maintenance crew has already planted it. Thank you to the City of Greenhills!

A budget of \$10,000 has been allocated to the Memorial Grove. A portion of that money will go to a sign. This led to a discussion of name options, and chairperson Dave asked members to give this issue some thought and hold further discussion on this issue at the next meeting.

Bob explained the EC will have input on the timeline and marketing of the Memorial Grove.

Commissioner Reports

Fairfield Home Expo Booth: The event took place on April 13 and was well attended by residents. The seeding giveaway has become a popular annual tradition at the Expo, and a way to raise community awareness of Arbor Day. The EC discussed the booth location, and it was decided to request the same spot next year. It is very visible and residents know where it is. Additionally, separating the seedlings is messy, and the tent is outside on cement, i.e. easier clean-up. It was suggested that the EC increase the seedling order next year, since they ran out in the early afternoon.

Huffman Park Event: All EC members who worked the April 20th event agreed that attendance would have been much better had it been warmer. A suggestion was made to move the event to May next year, possibly on the third Saturday.

A few of the newly planted trees at the park have lost their tags. The EC will help identify them.

Dave expressed concern about proper pruning and care of the parks new fruit trees. Bob said that this falls under normal parks maintenance, and that the pruning, spraying and use of spreaders will be done to insure safe and bountiful yields.

Tree City Luncheon: EC members Greg, Becky and Veronica attended this year's festivities in Greenhills. They rode with Jim Bell, Ben and Bob. Fairfield won a buckeye tree in the drawing.

Village Green Fine Art Fair: In the past, the EC has had a booth at this event. Children could make cards out of recycled materials, but last year almost no one participated. As a result, the EC would rather have a booth at Huffman Park's annual children's event, which they feel is a better venue for their message of environmental stewardship.

Other Business

June EC Meeting: Bob will contact Jim Montague to see if he can attend the next EC meeting and go over final plan for the Memorial Grove.

July EC Meeting: The July 3rd meeting will be moved to July 10th because of the holiday. Dave spoke with Dave Crouch, Director of Utilities, and he invited the EC to hold their next meeting at the Water Treatment Plant, and to tour the facility. The Commission liked the idea and is looking forward to the visit.

Library Grounds Tree Identification: The EC was asked by the staff at the library to provide a list of their trees and species, as patrons have made inquiries and there is no identification reference. Veronica said that she will stop by there some time before the next meeting and discuss this with the librarians.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – May 21, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – June 5, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Adjournment: at 7:06 pm.