

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2012**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Mike Lane
Mitch Rhodus
Chuck Ullrich
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absences: Brian DeRoo, Boyd Miller and Becky Montag

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Minutes: The October minutes were approved after a correction to the spelling of new member Chuck Ullrich's last name. The September minutes, which could not be approved last month, were approved with no changes.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Veronica will contact both residents for permission to measure their pin oaks for the Big Tree Contest. In addition, she will measure one at South School.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/1, Greg/2, Veronica/5.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Brian and Greg will do the December/January cleanup. EC members have signed up through May 2013.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the FYBA attended their meeting and presented the status of all leagues run through the Waterworks program. Parks Board is very pleased with FYBA's management.

The Huffman Park ribbon cutting ceremony was a huge success. Despite bitter weather, a large number of residents and City officials attended the emotional dedication. The turnout reflects the community's deep appreciation for the Huffman's generous gift of land and funding, making their vision a reality for the children of Fairfield.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: The stats, included in the meeting packet, are in line with the past month.

EAB Quarterly Report: Jim Bell reports that the Board will review the EAB Management Plan, which has been in place for five years. They will discuss changes suggested by the EC.

Ben had a phone call from a resident on Wyoming telling him that his ash trees are symptomatic for EAB. This information was passed on to Public Works.

Memorial Grove: Ben brought an aerial plan of the area, as requested by the EC. It will help the Commission make further plans for the park. A few more "site amenities" such as benches have been added by Eagle Scouts. Materials are available to finish to path, and it should be completed this winter.

Due to funding, this project, proposed by the EC seven years ago, has moved slowly. The next step will be to create a planting plan. Residents who wish to honor or memorialize someone will select a tree from this predetermined plan, thus preventing random, unwise plantings.

Tree markers were discussed. The EC liked Dave's suggestion for a spring-held marking system he photographed in Japan. This type of marker provides pertinent information (tree species, person it honors, etc.), and it expands as the tree grows.

Dave asked about hiring a landscape architect to plan the Memorial Grove, as it will require a very specialized skill set. Ben will investigate. Chuck suggested the EC try and tap local nurseries in the area. Three members offered to make calls and see if any help is offered.

Miscellaneous: Ben is working on the Tree City USA application. Fairfield has earned this distinction seventeen years in a row. The Growth Award, however, is always more difficult to attain, and Fairfield has qualified for it only five times.

Veronica suggested that the EC plant a tree in Huffman Park as part of the April 2013 Arbor Day celebration to honor the Huffman family. Commission members supported the idea.

Commissioner Reports

Home Expo: Species choices for the annual seedling giveaway will be discussed and decided at the January or February meeting. The date for the Expo is Saturday, April 13, 2013. More information will appear in the newsletter.

Public Education: The Fairfield Lane Library has asked the EC to identify the various species of trees on their grounds. It will help their staff answer patrons' questions such as, "What kind of tree is that?" The EC would like to complete this project in 2013.

Arts Fair: The event will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2013. It will coincide with the Garden Club's annual plant sale. In the past, the EC has had a craft booth for the children. Participation will be discussed at a future meeting.

Izaak Walton League: Greg asked if the EC might be interested in working with the group's "Little Ikes," and perhaps teaming up for an Arbor Day event. The Commission liked the idea, and it will be discussed further in January.

December's Meeting: Veronica suggested that the EC not meet in December, due to the busy season. In a vote, all were in favor. In addition, the January 2nd meeting will be moved to January 9th because of the holiday.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – November 13, 2012 at 5:30 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – January 9, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Home Expo – Saturday, April 13, 2013, CAC

Arts Fair – Saturday, May 11, 2013, CAC and Village Green

Adjournment: at 7:04 pm.