

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2012**

In Attendance:

Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair
Dave Colteryahn
Veronica Craig
Brian Deroo
Becky Montag
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bethany Brewer, Parks and Recreation Department

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by co-vice chair Greg LoBuono.

Welcoming New Commission Members: Brian Deroo and Becky Montag introduced themselves and were officially welcomed to their first meeting as EC members.

Minutes: Minutes for the March and April meetings were both approved with no corrections.

Standing Business

Correspondence: Veronica spoke with a Fairfield resident at the Home Expo. He has a large pin oak in his yard that may be a contender for the Big Tree record. Veronica will contact the homeowner and follow through with the initial visit and measurements.

Articles: Dave shared an article about the Asian long-horned beetle infestation in Clermont County. He also relayed new information from OSU which recommends injecting ash trees in April or May rather than later in the summer, as the earlier treatment has been shown to be five times more effective than a later one.

Veronica's article was about the new, multi-use Field of Dreams and the upcoming dedication.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L/9, Dave/7, Veronica/13.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Mike Lane's daughters handled the May/June clean-up to earn community service hours for school. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the next meeting for members to choose their next two month clean-up.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that there was a rather light agenda. A tour of the Huffman Property showed that the project is progressing nicely.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Field of Dreams will be held on Sunday, June 10 at 7:30 pm. The public is invited. The opening ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, July 28 and will feature a reception, a celebrity softball game, skydivers, food vendors and fireworks.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: The new format shows a month-to-month comparison, with an average of 7-8 pages view per visit.

Recycling Presentation Plans: The EC would like to invite a speaker in to talk about changes and updates in area recycling practices. Ben will contact Anne Fieher-Flaig and ask her if she can attend the September 5, 2012 meeting.

Library Tree Identification: The Lane Public Library has asked the EC to identify the trees that are planted at their Fairfield Branch (Village Green). Details will be ironed out at the next meeting.

EAB Removal Grant: \$10,000 in state grant money has become available for the removal and replacement of ash trees. The City of Fairfield must match this dollar amount. This will go before Council for approval. Our city has over 700 ash trees located in the right of way, and 100 on Woodridge, where the EAB infestation, marked by D-shaped exit holes, has been confirmed.

Dave expressed disappointment that the EAB article in the *Fairfield Flyer* was incomplete and lacked the important website links that homeowners will need now that EAB has been confirmed in our area. Ben explained that this was an editing error due to space constraints. The EC would like another, more in-depth article to appear with the complete list of sites for residents.

Dave showed the EC a photo of EAB damage along Wildwood's tree-lined streets.

Miscellaneous: The Parks Department has been awarded a grant that will provide four additional Big Belly recycling units.

Some of the trees that were planted on the Muskopf Road well site have died. Although these swamp oaks and serviceberries are no longer under warranty, they will be replaced.

Commissioner Reports

Home Improvement Expo: This year's expo was held on Saturday, April 14. There was an excellent turnout, despite the rain. The EC gave away redbud and tupelo seedlings, with many requests for more redbuds next year. Residents like these small, ornamental trees because they are quick growers and very showy.

Tree City USA Awards: EC members Greg and Veronica attended the event, carpooling with other Fairfield attendees. Amberley Village was this year's host and the guest speaker was the horticulturalist for the Cincinnati Zoo. Guests received Tree City awards.

Friends of Fairfield's Forest Award: This year's recipient was Steve Welte. Greg LoBuono, EC co-vice chair, presented the award.

Village Green Arts Fair Booth: The event will take place on Saturday, June 16. Veronica will organize the EC's annual activity for the children. She requested coloring books and the ever-popular EAB tattoos to give away. Recycled materials for making Father's Day cards will be available.

Other Business

EAB Management Plan Review: The plan has been reviewed and accepted, with a few revisions. Now it will go on to Parks Board and then on to Council.

2011 Review/Annual Report: The report was reviewed by EC members. Some revisions were made, and the final report was approved and sent to Parks Board.

2012 Goals: Ben asked the EC to gather information and to look at the objectives. Then, at the July meeting, the Commission will be able to discuss what is “doable” and what is not.

Officer Elections: The EC chose Dave Colteryahn as their new chairperson, with Greg LoBuono vice-chair, and Veronica Craig recording secretary.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – June 12, 2012 at 5:30 pm, CAC

Village Green Fine Art Fair – June 16, 2012 at 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – July 11, 2012 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Field of Dreams Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – June 10 at 7:30 pm

Field of Dreams Opening Ceremony – July 28

Adjournment: at 7:35 pm.