

**Environmental Commission Meeting  
June 5th, 2019 6:00 pm @ CAC**

The June meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Donna Faulk.

**In Attendance:**

Donna Faulk, Chair  
Dyanna Wilson, Secretary  
Amelia Geiser  
Phil Bowling  
Vivian Paul  
Anna Barrett  
Gwen Ritchie – Parks Board Representative  
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the board minutes were approved with no corrections.

**Standing Business**

**Correspondence/Articles:**

**Hours Spent on Environmental Commission Activities:**

Amelia: 1	Vivian: 2	Dyanna: 1	Anna:
Gwen: 1	Joe:	Donna: 1/2	Phil: 2

**Parks Board Report**

The dog park naming contest is still ongoing. They are looking at a possible opening in July. Tiphonie Howard has suggested a guard rail in along aside of the road where trees have been removed.

**Parks Department Report**

The trees were planted at the Memorial Grove in May.

**Commissioner Reports**

**EC Communication Initiative:**

**Friends of Fairfield Forest Award Nomination:**

**Adopt-A-Roadway:** May and June: Anne Otten July and August: Amelia September and October: Anna November & December: Phil

## Other Business

Anne Fieher Flag and Molly Yeager from Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste came to talk to us about their initiative beginning the week of July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Recycling Challenges: Increase in contamination of recycling good such as clothing and plastics that cannot be recycled. 1 in 4 items currently in recycling bins are not recyclable. China was taking items that were not recyclables and starting in 2017 they stopped taking mixed plastics and paper. Rumpke uses local companies to recycle their goods. Rumpke works to make it cost effective by keeping recycling costs lower than trash. The Ohio EPA provided a Grant to decrease contamination in curbside recycling. Fairfield, Cincinnati and Centerville are the cities chosen to be part of the Grant initiative. They are also partnering with Rumpke for education of citizens. Fairfield had a 23% contamination rate based on weight. Top items include: plastic bags, tires, clothing, batteries, metal such as car parts, hoses and items that can tangle.

They will educate citizens through direct mailing, social media, a website and direct outreach. They also have employees that will audit the recycling bins of each home in the city. They will then be tagging the bins that have items in their bin that do not belong. The second time they will have a second tag that indicates to fix their recycling and will come back the next time. Eventually their recycling will not be picked up by Rumpke if they have inappropriate items.

May 1<sup>st</sup> Kick off

June 1<sup>st</sup> Print Banners

June 17<sup>th</sup> Mail postcards

July 15<sup>th</sup> Feet on Street

Aug 30<sup>th</sup> Conduct recycling audit

Fall 2019 Share results

June 2020 Final report due to TRP

The goal is at least a 5% reduction in contamination. Elimination of plastic bags would be a huge improvement. The Ohio EPA is looking to develop a kit that could be used to educate other communities around Ohio based on what they learn during this project.

Kevin from Gregory Forrest Lester Tree Health Professionals. He is board certified Master Arborist. They are a contact for people when they have trees with health issues. Trees put off pheromones when they are stressed and attract insects such as the emerald ash bore. Certain diseases are also attracted due to humid weather. Blue spruce is an example that will get a fungus due to overly wet conditions. Lawn services will also spray tree and shrubs and will overspray and it will kill off beneficial insects.

Trees disease will sometimes be shown through discoloration, or if the top canopy of the tree has smaller leaves than the rest of the tree.

Donna has been in contact with Taking Root and they are discussing Fairfield joining in with Hamilton for next spring. She said they will probably have about 100 trees this year.

The newly built schools in Fairfield could use help with tree planting. Vivian received a contact for Central Elementary so we can touch base with them if we have a grant we can use to plant trees at the new schools. Gwen has also been in contact with the school Liaison and letting them know we are open to helping with planting plans for the schools.

### **Calendar**

Parks Board Meeting – Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 PM @ CAC

Environmental Committee Meeting – August 7th 2019 at 6:00 PM @CAC

### **Programs**

Chipping Program – Saturday June 8<sup>th</sup> on Groh Lane 8:00am - Noon

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM