



Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting: February 8, 2022 6:35-8:07 PM

Public Service Facility, 500 Keough Rd

Agenda

1. Call to order at 6:35pm

a. Board members present:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| ✓ Paul Brister | ✓ Mary Urrutia |
| ✓ Kathryn Martin | ✓ Michelle Obenour |
| ✓ Orpheus Triplett | ✓ Josh Russell |
| ✓ Sheila Bentley | ✓ Grant Gates |

2. Public Service Recognition – Chief Abelin – Beekeeping

- a. The committee recognized Chief Abelin for his work in the community and presented him with a \$50 gift card. He is known as the unofficial town beekeeper and spoke to the committee about his work. He started out by visiting a friend who kept bees and got hooked on the hobby. Bees typically swarm in the Spring; the queen lays eggs and leaves the hive with half the bees to go establish a new hive. This causes them to swarm in sometimes unwanted areas (local businesses, resident's homes) as they search for a new home. The animal shelter and town services have called him to save and relocate the swarms. To prevent the swarms from ending up in unwanted areas Chief Abelin sets up bait traps (queen hormones) in town to try and catch the swarm before they go into someone's home. If someone has a swarm at their house, they are encouraged to call the Collierville PD non-emergency line or the Memphis Beekeeper Association. Once the hive is found, he can relocate it to his property or that of other local beekeepers. Honeybees have been endangered for a long time due to pesticide use and invasive pests. Chief encourages residents to not spray or do anything to harm the hive, please call the Beekeeper Assoc or the police dept instead. One thing we can do to help the bee population is to avoid spraying our lawns/plants/trees with chemicals. The bees can unintentionally pick up those harmful pesticides and bring them back, which can kill the entire hive.

3. Approval of January 2022 minutes

Active Items

4. Recycling Center Tour

- a. The tour was very informative and the biggest takeaway from the trip was to focus on education. The recycle facility processes 6,500 tons of material every year, 900 tons of that is contamination that must be brought to the landfill. As a community, if we can do a better job of only putting items that are recyclable into our carts, we can reduce the contamination and create a more efficient and beneficial process.
- b. Mickey will email Josh a quick recap of the visit and include pictures for a social media post. We also have Sophia's video on recycling guidelines and this video will be reposted along with the information from the tour.
- c. Committee agreed our next step regarding education should be creating stickers with recycling guidelines to put on the recycle carts.
- i. Paul will talk with local label company CCL to see if we can work with them on design and production.

- ii. Grant will ask the high school's graphic design class to see if this is a project they would like to take on.
- iii. ****Homework for the committee**** - please look online and find examples of stickers other communities have used on their recycle carts. Come to the next meeting with ideas on what you think needs to be included on the sticker.
- d. Additional education ideas: The committee could sponsor a field trip to the recycle center for homeowners' association presidents. This would be a great way to spread the information amongst the communities. Additionally, once the sticker is made, we could also create a fridge magnet from the design.

5. Great Backyard Bird Count – Feb 18-21 2022

- a. Sheila will correct the date on the letter she passed out to schools this morning.
- b. Josh will contact Jennifer Casey to post the flyer and basic information to social media.

6. 2022 Goals and Key Projects

- a. Great Backyard Bird Count
- b. Recycling guidelines education – cart sticker and magnet
- c. Arbor Day Tree planting
- d. Recycle Saturday – aim for once per year. Tentative date for this Spring is April 23rd
 - i. Josh will reach out to the electronics recycler and Paul will coordinate with Habitat to secure this date
- e. Fair on the Square in May – we normally have a booth there for outreach and education
 - i. One goal is to have recycle cart stickers and/or magnets for this event
 - ii. Could pass out tree seedlings as well
- f. Tree Canopy - Univ of Memphis created a tree canopy image in 2012. We could work to update this image and bolster the website regarding tree info. We could start by calling the city GIS team (Carrie Phillips 901-457-2357)
- g. Educational social media campaign created by CEC members with our favorite products/ideas to reduce household waste.
- h. Quarterly(ish) symposium on environmental topics. Could start with Chief Abelin and beekeeping.

7. Arbor Day Tree Planting

- a. Friday March 4th 12:00pm (Tennessee Arbor Day)
- b. Location for tree is in Johnson Park, across the street from last year's tree
- c. Motion not to exceed \$300 for Josh to purchase tree – approved.
- d. Outreach / Communication – Josh will coordinate with Mayor on date/time for the tree planting ceremony.
- e. Tree City 2022 Application – complete, thank you Sheila and Josh!

Ongoing

8. Budget

- a. \$1950, but will be ~\$1650 next month after we spend ~\$300 on Arbor Day tree.

9. Town Updates

10. New Business

- a. No sidewalks on Quinn road to Collierville Middle School so kids cannot walk or bike to school. Having this option is crucial to the health and well being of children, but also has a positive environmental impact.
- b. Josh will contact the city to see if the sidewalks are on a future development plan, and what the next step is if sidewalks are not planned.

11. Adjournment 8:07pm