



Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting: May 10, 2022 6:42-7:52PM

Public Service Facility, 500 Keough Rd

Agenda

1. Call to order at 6:42pm.
 - a. Board members present:
 - ✓ Paul Brister
 - ✓ Kathryn Martin
 - ✓ Grant Gates
 - ✓ Orpheus Triplett
 - ✓ Mary Urrutia
 - ✓ Josh Russell
 - ✓ Michelle Obenour
2. Board members unable to attend:
 - a. Sheila Bentley
3. April meeting minutes approved as is.

Active Items

1. Fair on the Square – Debrief and suggestions for next year
 - a. Trees: need bucket for each kind, labeled, big signage indicating they are free. Make quarter sheet tree info printouts for each kind and instructions on how to plant them. Order them earlier to have better selection, get a few smaller trees.
 - b. Brochures: Improve/create a display for brochures so people can see them and take what they want.
 - c. Tables: realign tables so one is across the front of the tent to display items rather than having them at the back of the tent.
 - d. Prizes/Swag: Seed postcards, reusable food storage bags, and water bottles were a hit. Need something else for kids.
 - i. Other swag ideas – trivia question game, or kids water bottles with recycling tips
 - e. Have a suggestions box available – collect ideas from the community as to what they want to see the commission do, or what the town needs from an environmental perspective.
 - f. Lots of questions about glass recycling from the public.
 - g. Question about where to recycle household batteries.
2. Recycle Saturday – May 14th
 - a. Members able to attend: Paul, Mary, Mickey, Grant, 2 employees from the city
 - b. Signs out on the cross streets on Wednesday
 - c. Reusable food storage bags will be available to give away
3. Recycling Education – cart stickers and magnets
 - a. Project still ongoing. Paul will get in touch with the sticker manufacturer.
4. Milk carton recycling campaign (Crosswinds elementary)
 - a. A student wrote a very well thought out letter to his school concerning recycling their milk cartons. Maybe there is something we can do to assist.
 - b. Josh will reach out to the recycle facility in Memphis to see if they recycle milk cartons since the Henderson facility does not.

- c. A truck with a 40-yard container can carry 6 or 7 tons, we would need to fill that truck to make a trip to the recycle facility worthwhile.
 - d. If we can find a facility that will recycle the cartons, we can work on a pilot program.
5. Tree Canopy - (Brant Sollis 901-457-2347 / Carrie Phillips 901-457-2357)
- a. New map of the county is scheduled for 2024. Most likely we will not get an update to the tree canopy until this time.
6. Quarterly(ish) symposium on environmental topics.
- a. Dark Sky Initiative
 - i. Morton Museum can hold ~40 people, as well as the library. Town hall meeting room is an option too.
 - 1. Kathryn will check on the Morton Museum cost and availability.
 - 2. Josh will check on the town hall availability (any Thursday in June).
 - ii. Streetlights and their maintenance cost the town \$1.7 million per year. City has hired a company to do a street light survey. We should be able to gather some information from that once the survey is complete.
 - b. Beekeeping
 - c. Invasive Plants
 - d. Recycling

Ongoing

7. Budget - \$755
- a. Motion to approve spending up to \$755 for preparations for the first symposium – approved.
 - b. Needs to be spent / invoiced / paid for by June 30th
8. Town Updates
- a. Thursday recycling is still getting sent to the landfill due to contamination. Recycle facility charges \$125/ton for contamination.
 - i. One idea on keeping contamination down would be to collect the problem area neighborhoods separately and bring those straight to the landfill.
 - b. Josh will ask again for an automated software system to go into the trucks to help flag the contamination and create more efficient routes.
 - c. Josh will also get crews back out inspecting recycle carts for contamination. Once identified, carts can be tagged and sanitation employees can speak to the residents about recycling guidelines, and even offer to trade out the recycle cart for a garbage cart.
9. New Business & Tracking of Completed Projects
- a. ****Member Homework** - Look more into glass recycling since we had so many citizen questions about it. Let's all do research to see if there are local businesses that will buy the material. Look for grant programs. Research to see what other towns are doing with glass. If we come up with something we could use the old recycling sorting facility as a drop off center.
 - b. Social media campaign idea:
 - i. Each month we can highlight the different places that recycle items that are not collected curbside: i.e. household batteries, car batteries, glass, hazardous waste – kind of like a “Did you Know” segment. That way people know it cannot go in the curbside collection cart but can be taken somewhere other than the landfill.
10. Adjournment 7:52pm

2022 Completed Projects

- 1. Great Backyard Bird Count (COMPLETED)
- 2. Arbor Day Tree Planting (COMPLETED)
- 3. Fair on the Square (COMPLETED)