



## Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting: July 12, 2022 6:34-8:00PM

Public Service Facility, 500 Keough Rd

### Agenda

1. Call to order at 6:34pm
  - a. Board members present:

✓ Paul Brister	✓ Sheila Bentley
✓ Kathryn Martin	✓ Michelle Obenour
✓ Mary Urrutia	✓ Josh Russell
2. Board members unable to attend:  
Grant Gates  
Orpheus Triplett
3. June minutes reviewed and approved as is.

### Active Items

1. Quarterly(ish) symposium on environmental topics.
  - a. Dark Sky Initiative last month
    - i. Debrief – sign up sheet was full, capacity was near max. Speakers were excellent and telescope viewing was engaging.
    - ii. Library was a great partner; we will continue with them on future symposiums.
    - iii. Keep the model of having a speaker and then having an interactive component afterwards.
  - b. Next topic:
    - i. Invasive plants, possible dates are Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, or 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30-8pm
    - ii. Sheila mentioned including tree canopy and tree preservation discussion too.
    - iii. What to plant vs. what not to (i.e. remove Bradford pear, what to plant instead)
    - iv. Kathryn will reach out to the library for available dates.
    - v. Kathryn and Sheila will be the subcommittee for finding speakers.
  - c. Recycling – Fall
  - d. Birds – before GBBC in Winter?
  - e. Beekeeping and fireflies / Insects - Spring
2. High School CEC Position
  - a. Grant was selected for a second term
3. Milk carton campaign
  - a. Republic does recycle milk cartons, but the town of Collierville cannot absorb the cost of running a program for this. Perhaps the schools themselves can pay for it.
  - b. Any other regional recycling facilities that take coated board / milk cartons?
  - c. \*\*All CEC members - Let's do some research to see if there are national/local programs for recycling milk cartons and try to find a model that we can scale to our town and work from there.
4. Recycling social media campaign idea:

- a. 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.
  - i. Next social media post: Paul will email Jennifer pictures and a writeup from the last Recycle Saturday (9,542 lbs of electronics diverted from the landfill).
  - ii. Future idea: Publish the town’s tonnage numbers regarding waste, recycling, tree trimmings and brush, etc... with some goals for improvement each quarter (smaller percentage of overall waste going to landfill). Josh will send these numbers out to the group.

#### 5. Recycling Education in Elementary Schools

- a. Josh will reach out to his contact at the schools to see what their interest is. We would need three Fridays in Oct/Nov, cover two schools per day (one am, one pm). Crews can bring a recycle truck and discuss what can/cannot be recycled, have games, pledges, etc...

#### 6. Tree Canopy - (Brant Sollis 901-457-2347 / Carrie Phillips 901-457-2357)

- a. Tree canopy update (Paul)
- b. Educational / Awareness campaign (website, communications, interactive maps, etc)

### **Ongoing**

#### 7. Budget - \$2000

- a. No gift cards for speaker gifts in the future, must be an actual gift.

#### 8. Town Updates

#### 9. New Business & Tracking of Completed Projects

- a. Discussion on how we can inform the Mayor and Board what we learned from the Dark Sky symposium. Kathryn mentioned ways the city can reduce light pollution (streetlight covers aiming light down, warmer color and lower wattage on LED light bulbs, etc...)
- b. Small changes can have a big impact on the life and migration of birds, bats, and fireflies.
- c. Josh will investigate the streetlight study to determine findings and outcome. This may be an opportunity for CEC to recommend changes in line with what we learned at the symposium.
- d. Could eventually write a letter to the Mayor and Board.

#### 10. Adjournment 8:00pm

### **2022 Completed Projects**

1. Tree City USA designation (COMPLETED)
2. Great Backyard Bird Count (COMPLETED)
3. Arbor Day Tree Planting (COMPLETED)
4. Select Student Committee Member (COMPLETED)
5. Fair on the Square (COMPLETED)
6. Recycle Saturday (COMPLETED)
7. Community Summit Series – Star Light, Star Bright (COMPLETED)