



Collierville Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Meeting: October 17, 2023 6:33-8:12PM

Public Service Facility, 500 Keough Rd

Agenda

1. Call to order at 6:33pm
 - ✓ Sheila Bentley
 - ✓ Paul Brister
 - ✓ Jamie Groce
 - ✓ Edgar Jimenez
 - ✓ Kathryn Martin
 - ✓ Michelle Obenour
 - ✓ Clay Ticer
 - ✓ Mary Urrutia
 - ✓ Justin Wilburn
 - ✓ Kristy Yeung
2. Board members unable to attend:
Bethanny Schmidt
3. September 2023 Meeting Minutes approved as is.
4. Reminder for 2024 Boards & Commissions Applications – Deadline November 22, 2023
 - a. <https://www.colliervilletn.gov/government/join-a-town-board-or-commission>

Active Items

1. Conservation Corner
 - a. October (Kathryn) – Fall planting tips and native plants.
 - i. Mickey email to Jennifer
 - b. November (Clay & Brian) – Loose leaf collection and why it is good for the environment, add Sophia's video.
2. Community Summit Series
 - a. Nov 9 - Energy Conservation and maybe recycling discussion.
 - i. Paul – contact TVA/MLGW for a speaker
 - ii. Kathryn – reach out to library for info on past speaker they had with TVA/MLGW, what time, how many participants, etc... It was very popular so perhaps we can offer this same discussion.
 - iii. Tack on 10 min recycling guidelines discussion at the end?
 - b. Revamp approach for 2024? – Partner with other organizations to have larger impact?
 - i. How do we drive engagement? Virtual field trip to the recycling facility?
 - a. More family friendly events
3. Tree Canopy & Town Ordinances
 - a. Jamie Groce spoke about updated tree ordinances.
 - b. Overhead LIDAR information will be gathered but the city would need to hire someone to translate that info into tree canopy numbers.
 - i. Grants may be available for interpretation of this data.
 - c. Changes made in 2021:
 - i. Minimum planting formulas, hopefully discourages clear cut so they don't have to go back and plant as many trees.
 - ii. Checklist now exists for demonstrating agricultural property use.
 - d. Town typically issues 170 permits for new homes per year, down to ~80 this year.
 - e. Developers hire surveyors to count trees then submit the plans to the city, the requirements for tree keeping/planting back are determined based on that.
 - i. Once we have a tree canopy number perhaps the ordinance could be changed to include the impact the development would have on the existing number.

- f. Does the town do anything regarding invasive species? – sometimes they ask businesses to remove them but that doesn't always work.
 - g. How big is the tree bank and they are open to suggestions on where to spend it? It's usually ad hoc as to how the money is spent, when a project comes up if it needs trees and it could ease the city budget, they use it. Jamie will get back to us regarding how much is in the bank, and they are open to suggestions.
4. TN Environmental Council seedlings
 - a. Mary – apply/sign up. Once approved we'll figure out the details.
 - b. Clay will check to see if we can distribute seedlings Sat, March 16th at Suggs Park, 9-12

Ongoing:

5. Budget - \$1950
6. Town Updates
7. New Business & Tracking of Completed Projects
 - a. Perhaps move our Recycle Saturday to a more well seen parking lot (Booyas/Starbucks lot) to get more attention.
 - b. Motion to approve \$50 for speaker gifts – approved.
 - c. Water and wastewater treatment plant tour. Most likely will be on Mon, Nov 13th, 10am.
8. Adjournment 8:12pm

November Meeting Topics:

- Town Recycling Awareness Campaign
 - a. How can CEC support city recycling awareness campaign?
 - b. Review ideas from Town Recycling Awareness Campaign Ideas List – Prioritize and choose project leader(s)
- Composting Update
 - a. Invited Mike Larivee from Compost Fairy to join our meeting in November
 - b. Continue discussion on composting opportunities for Collierville
- Environmental Impact Studies for Town
 - a. How can CEC be involved or aware of current environmental impact studies for future projects or developments?
- Grant opportunities for CEC to pursue
 - a. TN - Community Tree Planting Program (TAEP) (Next Year – trees in Halle Park)
 - <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/urban/community-tree-planting-program.html>
 - b. Glass <https://www.glassrecyclingfoundation.org/grants>
 - i. Deadline is early July 2024
 - c. TN Dept of Environment and Conservation has numerous grants, funds could be used for:
 - i. Sanitation truck for recycle collection and/or AI/digital capabilities related to contamination
 - d. Safe routes to school grants
 - i. <https://www.transportation.gov/mission/health/Safe-Routes-to-School-Programs>