

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2013**

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig, recording secretary
Becky Montag
Mitch Rhodus
Chuck Ullrich
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative
Tom Nault, EC applicant
Jim Montague, Lakeview Nursery
Greg Morrow, Fairfield's Grounds Superintendent

Absent: Brian DeRoo

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by chairperson Dave Colteryahn.

Memorial Grove Design: Jim Montague presented his preliminary plan for the future Memorial Grove. The land is located along Nilles and Banker Drives, between the street and the creek. Homes in this area, which had suffered repeated flooding, were leveled with the aid of grant money. This land will remain undeveloped and once again be part of the natural flood plain.

The EC approached Jim about planning a memorial park, which would not interfere with environmental stipulations dictated by the grant. He met with the EC in January and agreed to take on the project. There were many issues to consider, such as a water source for tree irrigation, species selections and placement, and ways to identify those being honored or memorialized. Jim's initial plan was met with excitement and praise from EC members. The scaled concept drawing he presented this month included many native species such as dogwoods, redbuds and conifers. According to Jim, this park will become a combination of existing and new plantings...some common, easy to care for stuff and some more exotic choices. The existing central area will be improved. The goal is color and beauty in each season.

Bob and Greg Morrow explained that the process will be approached in stages, once a final rendering is approved. The next step will be to install the watering system and to begin compiling a list of trees, so that Jim can order trees. The EC thanked Jim for his time, enthusiasm and commitment to the City of Fairfield. With his continued expertise, the Grove can finally become a reality.

Minutes: The minutes for the March meeting were approved with no corrections.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Veronica shared two articles. One detailed the soon-to-be planted Ann Frank chestnut at the Children's Museum in Indianapolis. The other article was about the invasive pest the woolly adelgid.

EC Activity Hours: Dave/6, Greg/2, Becky/.5, Veronica/3.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Dave and his son did the clean-up on March 23rd. There was a lot of litter.

Parks Board Report

Bob Schappacher reported for Bob Breen. Parks Board reviewed the CIP through 2017, and ten thousand dollars has been allocated for development of the Memorial Grove, the bulk of which will likely be used for water lines and signs.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Bob included last month's statistics in the EC meeting packet.

Ash Grant Update: Planting the 33 replacement trees along Woodridge Blvd. has been completed. Bob, Ben and Wendi walked the area on 3/22. Wendi had some complaints, mostly about planting depth and mulch placed too high around tree trunks. The nursery will be returning to make the necessary corrections. Ben is finishing the final paperwork so the reimbursement process can begin. The City spent 20K, 10K of which will be refunded after the 4/15 paperwork is submitted.

Miscellaneous: Tom Nault will be interviewing for a position as an EC member at the April 9th Parks Board Meeting.

Commissioner Reports

Fairfield Home Expo Booth: The event takes place on Saturday, April 13. The Environmental Commission will be giving away redbud and red oak seedlings as part of their Arbor Day celebration. Bob asked that the event boxes be checked and prepped at the end of this meeting.

Huffman Park Event: This community-wide event will be held at the recently dedicated Huffman Park on Saturday, April 20, 2013 from 10 am to 2 pm. Many activities are planned, with an emphasis on Earth Day. The EC will participate in a birthday tree planting at 11:45 am.

Friends of Fairfield's Forest Award: Because there were no nominations for recipients, the EC voted not to present awards this year.

Other Business

Tree City Luncheon: EC members Greg, Becky and Veronica will be attending this year's festivities in Greenhills. They will meet at the CAC and ride with Jim Bell, Ben and Bob.

Officer Elections: Nominations were made and voted on. Dave Colteryahn will serve as chairperson, Greg LoBuono as vice-chair, and Veronica Craig as recording secretary.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – April 9, 2013 at 5:30 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – May 1, 2013 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo – Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 9 am to 3 pm, CAC

Tree City USA Awards Luncheon – Friday, April 19th, 2013 in Greenhills

Huffman Park Earth Day Event – April 20, 2013 from 10 am to 2 pm, Huffman Park

Volunteer Recognition Dinner – Thursday, April 25, 5:00 pm, CAC

Village Green Fine Art Fair – Saturday, June 22, 2013

Adjournment: at 7:21 pm.