

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2010**

In Attendance:

Liz Hunter, chair
John Backscheider
Veronica Craig
Greg LoBuono
Boyd Miller
Greg Sunday
Steve Welte
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison
Guest: Wendi VanBuren

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Minutes: June's meeting minutes were approved without changes.

Guest Visit: Wendi VanBuren, our regional ODNR representative, came to discuss her upcoming Tree Commission Academy classes to be held on October 16 and 23 in Miami Township. Boyd will be attending.

Wendi also gave an EAB update.

>The beetle has definitely arrived in our area. Evidence of it has been found in Liberty Township and on the west side of Hamilton. Since infected trees tend to die from the top down, damage is quite visible.

>EAB treatment recommendations: This is still an option, but it must be administered each year and may be more effective on smaller ash trees.

>Problems: It is a Tree Board's job to help residents make educated decisions and to help the municipality prepare for the huge task of tree removal. As soon as EAB is confirmed, removal should start. Fairfield has an approved EAB Plan in place.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Veronica brought in article about EAB devastation.

EC Activity Hours: Liz-5, Greg L.-4.5, Boyd-6, Greg S.-5, Steve-2, Veronica-7.

Adopt-a-Roadway: The schedule was not available, so the person who signed up for the next clean-up will be notified at September's meeting.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the "Black Bottom" area was the main issue on this month's agenda. The Commission suggested that the development of this area should be identified with a sign and an article in the upcoming *Fairfield Flyer*. Dedication of this new park will be in the spring of 2011.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben provided June's and July's internet stats in this month's packet.

Memorial Tree Grove Update: The crew is cleaning up after the path construction. Benches and the shelter will appear on next year's budget proposal. Working off an aerial grid, Boyd will help the city to create a development plan.

Tree Lottery: This year's contest is open for submissions until September.

EAB Update: Trunk injections rather than soil drenching were done this year on the city's largest ash trees. Cities are to notify Wendi if EAB is suspected. Her department will come out and examine the trees. If confirmed, a new red dot will be added to the Ohio EAB map.

Commission Member Shirts: They arrived and were handed out after the meeting.

Commission Reports

2009 Report and 2010 Goals: The EC continues to focus on 2010's theme, "The Year of Water."

Memorial Tree Grove: See Ben's Parks Department Report above.

Other Business

Village Green Fine Arts Fair: The EC booth was very well attended this year. Water displacement bottles for toilet tanks were given away. EAB information was available, and the Commission sponsored a children's activity to make Father's Day cards from recycled materials. Many youngsters participated.

Street Tree Inventory: Plans will be finalized at the September or October meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2010, 6:00 pm, CAC

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – August 10, 2010, 5:30 pm, CAC

Energy Meeting – August 17, 11:30 -- 1:00, Public Works Department

EC Meeting – September 1, 2010, 6:00pm, CAC

Wendi VanBuren's annual workshop/conference, October 5, 8:30 – 3:00, Cox Arboretum

Tree Commission Academy – October 16 & 23, Miami Township

Tree Commission Academy – November 3&4, Miami Township

Adjournment: at 7:04 pm.