

## Environmental Commission

### Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015

#### **In Attendance:**

Dave Colteryahn, chair  
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair  
Veronica Craig, recording secretary  
Gwen Ritchie  
Chuck Ullrich  
Tom Nault  
Adam Sackenheim  
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative  
Rodney Spencer, Parks Board Liaison  
**Absent:** Becky Montag

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the last meeting were approved with no corrections.

#### **Standing Business**

**Correspondence/Articles:** Dave shared two articles. One addressed the question of whether it is illegal to move firewood out of Butler County. Yes, it is illegal. The presence of 1000 Canker Disease means that Butler County is under quarantine, thus wood from this county may not cross into any other county.

Dave also discussed another article about ALB. Although progress to eradicate this devastating disease is being made in some areas, many other places still harbor the beetle and are being clear cut, despite public opposition. Some communities are exploring less drastic cutting options.

Gwen passed out a brochure for Butler County's upcoming Home Horticulture Series and invited all interested EC members to attend one or more of the sessions.

**Hours Spent on EC Activities:** Dave/1, Rodney/1, Adam/3, Gwen/6, Greg/1, Veronica/.5

**Adopt-A-Roadway:** Adam did the last clean-up, and Becky will do the next one in January or February. March/April will be Tom. Bob provided a new sign-up sheet, and EC members chose the following:

May/June: Gwen, July/August: Veronica, September/October: Greg, November/Dec.: Adam

## **Parks Board Report**

After a quick initial business meeting, there was a Council Manager's Briefing, to present the Master Plan Report. Bob will send a link to EC members for both sections, the Needs Assessment and the 10 Year Master Plan, which is a sort of game plan for achieving these goals. Rodney discussed some of the highlights of the report, which he felt would build on what we've already got. He saw an emphasis on: 1) Maintaining 2) Improving 3) Connecting.

Rodney stressed the importance of EC involvement. He asked that all members read the report before the next meeting and be prepared for a discussion on roles the EC might play in this Master Plan.

## **Parks Department Report**

**Website Statistics:** Bob reported that the website is undergoing changes and that the stats for the month of December were not accessible. They will appear in next month's meeting packet.

**Tree City Awards Luncheon:** This year the luncheon will be held in the City of Wyoming on Friday, April 17, 2015. All EC members are invited to attend. Bob will be receiving more information soon.

**Term Expirations:** Three EC members' terms are due to expire in March. Bob suggested that if Adam and Veronica are interested in applying for another term, they should go on-line and fill out the application. Both members will follow through. The third opening will be for Brian DeRoo's empty seat, and anyone interested in joining the EC is encouraged to fill out the application.

**Miscellaneous:** Dave asked if Bob knew who pruned the pear trees on Becker Drive. Bob responded that Public Works has taken over such duties and he will inquire whether they did the work. The Street inventory will be discussed at the next month meeting and Bob will research the current tree inventory that was done for the City of Fairfield.

**Graduate Student Volunteers:** At the end of last year, Adam suggested using local graduate students to help the EC with upcoming projects. He contacted Susie Zazycki, the assistant director of Miami University's Institute of Environment and Sustainability (IES), about working with Fairfield's EC. The Commission would welcome additional, expert help with projects such as tree inventory and planning development. She explained that volunteering is part of the curriculum for first year grad students, whose term runs from August 15<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>. Susie will speak with her director, and she and Adam will touch base later this month.

### **Calendar:**

Parks Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., CAC

EC Meeting – February 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., CAC

Fairfield Home Improvement Expo – Saturday, April 11, 2015, CAC

Tree City USA Luncheon – Friday, April 17, 2015, City of Wyoming

**Adjournment:** 6:47 p.m.