

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2012**

In Attendance:

Greg LoBuono, co-vice chair
Greg Sunday, co-vice chair
Dave Colteryahn
Veronica Craig
Mike Lane
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by co-vice chair Greg LoBuono.

Minutes: Meeting minutes for January, 2012 were approved without any corrections. Following one correction under “Standing Business” (EAB, not Asian long-horned beetle), the February 2012 minutes also were approved.

Standing Business

Correspondence and Articles: Veronica shared two articles. One highlighted the salvaging of the Huffman property. The other featured a company that manufactures expandable plaques for tree designations such as memorial or gift trees.

EC Activity Hours: Greg L/1, Dave/1, Greg S/1, Veronica/.5

Adopt-a-Roadway: Mike Lane’s daughters will handle the March/April clean-up to earn community service hours for school.

Parks Board Report

At the last meeting, Steve Smith reported on the progress of the Groh Lane Miracle League Fields. This multi-field complex will be special-needs friendly. Many aspects, such as a water collection for the sprinklers and LED lighting, are eco-friendly. The project is well organized and designed. It will be called “Hatton Park” in honor the major funder. Aside from roadway improvements, no City money is being spent on this project.

Due to losses in funding, many projects on the Parks Board “wish list” have been put on hold. However, Bob is hoping that money will be found to create river access for the “Black Bottom” property so that it can be used as a park.

Parks Department Report

Memorial Grove: A request has been made by an Eagle Scout to use the Grove as his project. The original plans called for a gazebo/shelter, but City’s Capital Projects funds were reduced. It would be a wonderful service to the community if the Scout were to build a structure for this area.

Website Update: Ben has updated links for EAB. Although visits to the site are down, the number of pages viewed is up.

Tree City Luncheon: Amberley Village will be hosting this year's event on Friday, April 20 from 11am to 2:30 pm. Several EC members will attend and will carpool to the event.

Grant Money: A Butler County Recycling and Solid Waste Recycling Grant will provide a portion of the funds for five additional "Big Belly" units to further the recycling initiative.

Membership: Greg Sunday's term has expired and this is his last meeting. He will be missed. Veronica is reapplying for her third EC term. The open spots on the EC have been posted, but there has only been one new application as yet.

Commissioner Reports

Home Improvement Expo: The expo will be held on Saturday, April 14 from 9 to 3 at the Creative Arts Center. The EC will have a booth and give away redbud and tupelo seedlings. There will be EAB/ALB updates, with video information on these destructive pests.

Village Green Arts Fair Booth: The event will take place on Saturday, June 16. Veronica will organize the EC's annual activity for the children.

Other Business

Friends of Fairfield's Forest Award: Ben did a press release, however there have been no nominations so far. The list of criteria is in this month's packet.

EAB Management Plan Review: Ben has nothing new to report. Dave was called upon to check a report of EAB infestation east of Route 747, and he found D-shaped exit holes. He spotted them at eye level, both on and between the bark ridges.

2011 Review/Annual Report: There was nothing further on this.

2012 Goals: Greg Sunday encouraged the EC to "grab the low-hanging fruit." Some of the upcoming projects could be kept simple, yet satisfy EC goals for community outreach, Tree City Award points, and the environmental initiative.

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting – March 13, 2012 at 5:30 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 6:00 pm, CAC

Home Improvement Expo – Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 9 am to 3 pm, CAC

Tree City Luncheon – Friday, April 20, 2012 in Amberley Village

Volunteer Recognition Dinner – Thursday, April 26 at 5:00 pm, CAC

Adjournment: at 7:36 pm.