

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2011**

In Attendance:

Liz Hunter, chair
Boyd Miller, vice chair
Veronica Craig
Mike Lane
Greg LoBuono
Greg Sunday
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liason

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Minutes: April's meeting minutes were approved after one correction.

Standing Business

Correspondence and Articles: Liz shared an *Enquirer* article suggesting seven new trees to consider when planting. Greg LoBouno brought in a *Gardeners' Supply* catalog featuring an extensive assortment of rain barrels.

EC Activity Hours: Greg S./9.5, Liz/4, Boyd/4, Greg L./3, Mike/1, Veronica/.5

Adopt-a-Roadway: Mike completed the March/April clean-up. Bob will tackle the project for May/June.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the bulk of the meeting was dedicated to interviews for 9 positions on various commissions, 5 of those for Environmental Commission. Liz, EC Chair, delivered the annual EC report to Parks Board.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben included the latest stats in this meeting's packet. There was an increase of 30 visits from the previous month.

Seedling Giveaway: Many residents requested that the EC return to last year's choice of redbud seedlings. They seemed to prefer a smaller, faster growing ornamental variety.

Neighborhood Beautification Project: Plantings have been completed at the Justice Center and on Pleasant, Randy, John Gray, and Carousel. In addition, 6 oaks were planted on Muskopf Road to replace those lost to drought.

EAB Grant Application: This grant was to help defray costs for removal of affected ash trees and for canopy restoration. Fairfield did not receive any grant money. Wendi reported that there were far more applicants than expected. However, forty Ohio communities received at least partial funding to help cover the cost of EAB destruction.

City News: Dennis Stuckey retired after 18.5 years as Fairfield's Assistant City Manager. His replacement is Mark Wendling, former City Manager of Silverton.

Commission Reports

Great Miami River Sweep: Scheduled for Saturday, May 7. Greg S. reported that, despite an extremely high water level and swift current due to all the recent rain, the event is still a "go." Commission members expressed concern about the dangerous conditions and urged caution. The EC was especially troubled that participating children get too close to the river or slip on rain-soaked banks.

Papa John's will be donating pizzas and McDonalds will supply orange drinks. Thanks to both for their show of community support!

Arts Fair Booth: Arts Fair will take place on Saturday, June 18 at the CAC from 10-4. Once again, the EC will sponsor a Father's Day Card Workshop featuring recycled materials. A schedule will be set up at the June meeting.

Other Business

Ordinance Review: Ben has posted the two sections that apply to the Environmental Commission, explaining the EC's membership, terms, functions and duties. Wendi has suggested a name change to clarify the purpose of the commission and to affirm commitment to arbor related issues. This was tabled until the June meeting.

New Business

Nomination and Election of Officers: The results are as follows: Liz Hunter, chairperson; Greg LoBouno and Greg Sunday, co-vice chairs; Veronica Craig, recording secretary.

Other New Business: Liz suggested that training for the annual Tree Count be held the week of June 20th. Ben will make sure the software is ready to use.

Calendar:

EC Meeting – June 1, 2011, 6:00pm, CAC

Arts Fair – June 18, 2011, 10-4, CAC

Tree Count Training – week of June 20th, meet @ CAC.

Adjournment: at 7:03 pm.

