

**ERCFC  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 6, 2008**

**In Attendance:**

Kris Roselle, Chair  
Tom Walsh, Vice Chair  
Karen Fields  
Andrew Glatfelter  
Christine Hacker  
Mike Lane  
Ruth Wells  
Steve Welte  
Veronica Craig, Secretary  
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative  
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison  
Dwight Culberson, Public Utilities Director  
Tim McLelland, Coordinator, Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with no changes.

**Standing Business**

**Website Statistics:** Ben reported that there were 920 hits last month. He included the stats for both last month and October 2007 in the meeting minutes packet.

**Correspondence/Articles:** Tom brought in an issue of *Arbor Day* spotlighting the bald cypress, and information about an upcoming seminar. Veronica had articles about recycling croc shoes, radon awareness month, the Fairfield vs. Oxford recycling contest. Steve shared Duke's Energy Efficiency Starter Kit. Ruth had info on eco-friendly products and an article from *National Geographic*. Ben brought in *The Echo's* piece about the restructuring of the CFC. Andrew suggested a helpful website, [greenseal.org](http://greenseal.org), dealing with ways to green the government.

**Hours Spent on ECFC Activities:** Kris had 29 volunteer hours. Tom, Karen and Veronica each had 5; Bob and Chris, 1 each. Ruth had 8 hours, and Mike and Andrew, 4 each. Steve worked 6 hours last month.

**Adopt-a-Roadway:** Mike and Kris will take the March slot for clean-up.

**Parks Board Report**

Bob reported that the last meeting was primarily administrative. The Black Bottom property will be a major focus in the upcoming months.

## Special Presentation

Dwight Culberson, Public Utilities Director for the City of Fairfield, welcomed the coordinator for Hamilton to New Baltimore Groundwater Consortium, Tim McLelland, emphasizing that public education is an essential component for maintaining our aquifer. Tim explained that the Groundwater Consortium serves 7 major suppliers – about 315,000 customers. Its goal is to monitor the use, purity and alternate sources of drinking water in our region. The cities of Fairfield and Hamilton rely 100% on the Great Miami Buried Valley Aquifer. Our city alone has 50 to 60 wells.

Tim passed out t-shirts for “Clean Sweep,” which will be held on May 10, 2008. This event mobilizes environmental groups and volunteers to clean up the banks of the Great Miami River from Indian Lake to the Ohio River. Tim encouraged ERCFC to participate, stating that both groups have many common goals. Tim was invited to attend future ERCFC meetings.

## Old Business

**EAB Update:** Ben discussed the quarterly report issued by Jim Bell. Several of the City’s very large ash trees, such as one in front of the Municipal Building and another at Veterans Memorial Park, will be treated to try to protect them from EAB, per recommendation of Al Bunker.

**Memorial Tree Grove:** Ben updated the group on the status, explaining that this will be a “low- key” park, with minimal distractions. There will walking paths, an overlook and a picnic shelter. The plan utilizes existing sidewalks. It will be a phased process, starting with the removal of marked trees.

**Backyard Habitat:** Karen e-mailed packets provided by the Ohio Extension Office to Ben. There will be links to various Ohio websites. It should be live later in the week.

**Birdhouse Workshop:** Steve brought in the prototype for the Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> workshop. This birdhouse features a recycled tomato juice can and uses cedar planking, which will be precut and drilled. Steve will contact Tim Coats.

**Tree Nursery Proposal:** Dave Crouch e-mailed Kris and said the Water Treatment Plant would be an excellent site. Kris, Steve and Dave will visit the Hamilton Tree Nursery at Greenwood Cemetery. ERCFC will need to develop a proposal for the City.

**Annual Report:** A few changes were discussed, such as adding a copy of duties and responsibilities. Kris will present the final version at the Parks Board Meeting next week.

## New Business

**Green City labels/awards:** While some cities call themselves “Green Cities,” Tom explained there is no real official certification for Green City designation. One common thread he was able to find was that it was all about numbers, being able to gauge improvement. He suggested choosing something easy to measure and show progress, such as recycling or energy efficiency. Groundwater Guardian Green Sites: [groundwaterfoundation.org](http://groundwaterfoundation.org) – Fairfield is eligible for awards.

**Sustainability Plans:** Mike felt that this dovetailed well with Tom’s Green City goals. He agreed that all goals are percentage-based. Fairfield’s Energy Committee focuses

on city facilities. Kris asked Dwight Culberson if he thought the City would support a sustainability plan, and the answer was yes.

**Rain Garden Symposium:** Ruth and Karen attended this symposium held at the Zoo. It focused on alternatives for stormwater management, emphasizing green roofs as an environmentally sound way to reduced heat, water runoff, pollutants and the carbon footprint. Materials from the symposium were handed out to ERCFC members.

**ERCFC Name Change:** Karen and Veronica presented a list of options. So far, the members have not found something that all can agree upon. It was decided to postpone the selection until after the busy spring months ahead.

**ERCFC Liaison to City Energy Commission:** Tom will serve in this position.

**Publicizing energy saving tax write-offs:** Kris pursued the possibility and contacted Mary Hopton, City Finance Director, about various options. Messages on the utility bill are possible, as long as they are three lines or less. Going “paperless” is not an option yet.

**Recycling Contest:** Publicity will be important. Advertising on FairfieldTV, flyers and common drop boxes will help reach the community. Kris will contact Tim McLelland.

**Home Expo:** Duke Energy’s Tim Abbott plans to bring a hybrid car and a light bulb energy meter. Home Depot will receive an invitation. Kris will attend a meeting with Rumpke this Friday. Anne Fieher Flaig will hold a recycling demo. ERCFC will sponsor a seedling giveaway. The seedlings will be bagged the week before, TBA. EAB samples and handouts will come from Don Eberwine. There was discussion about the Gator Bags (sign up sheet, raffle, or pledge sheet). This will be finalized next month.

**Election of Officers:** This issue will be decided at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, March 5, 2008, 6:00 pm, CAC

**Calendar:**

City Council Manager Briefing – Monday, February 11, 6:00pm, Council Chambers

City Council Presentations – Monday, February 25, 7:00pm, City Building

ERCFC Meeting – 3/5/2008

Birdhouse Workshop – 3/8/2008

ERCFC Meeting – 4/2/2008

Seedlings Bagged – TBA

Home Expo – 4/5/2008

Tree City Luncheon – Thursday, April 24 in Oakwood, OH

Arbor Day – 4/25/2008

First Concert – 5/29/2008, 6:00pm, Village Green

Adjournment at 8:08pm