

**ERCFC
MEETING MINUTES
March 5, 2008**

In Attendance:

Kris Roselle, Chair
Christine Hacker
Mike Lane
Ruth Wells
Steve Welte
Veronica Craig, Secretary
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes: The minutes for the February 6th meeting were approved with no changes.

Standing Business

Website Statistics: In this month's meeting packet Ben included a comparison of January's and February's website hits, broken down by individual pages. Overall, last month's interest was down, but it was a shorter month.

Correspondence/Articles: Ruth shared articles on campuses going green, pens and pencils made from recycled materials, and homes going green. Veronica found articles on hard to recycle items, traps for EAB, green walls, and critter safety.

Hours Spent on ECFC Activities: Kris had 38 volunteer hours. Mike worked 5, Veronica 4 and Karen 3. Chris, Ruth, and Bob each had 2. Steve worked 12.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Mike and Kris will do the clean-up sometime this month.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that much of the last meeting was spent going over the CIP. The Memorial Grove is a high priority this year. \$20,000 has been allotted for 2008 and \$15,000 will be available next year. Tree removal will begin when the weather permits. As for the Black Bottom site, gravel paths won't work, so other options were discussed.

New Commission Member Introduction

Ruth Wells is the newest ERCFC member. She applied because she wanted to get involved in community activities. The Commission welcomed her and introduced themselves, agreeing that the group is diverse, energized and dedicated. Ruth will be an excellent addition.

Old Business

City Managers Briefing: Tom attended the meeting held on 2/11/08 and passed on his report. The goal is energy savings within government. Possibilities include hybrid city vehicles and infra-red imaging to pinpoint heat losses.

Awards Presentation: The ERCFC congratulated Bob Breen once again for his help and dedication. He received the Friends of Fairfield Award at the last City Council meeting.

Backyard Habitat Website: Ben reported that the web page is up and running. He included a printed version in this month's ERCFC meeting packet. The website features a link to the ERCFC homepage.

Birdhouse Workshop: Steve spoke with Tim Coats and everything is ready to go. Members who will attend should bring a hammer and a Phillips screwdriver.

Tree Nursery Proposal: The discussion of this issue was tabled until next month.

Annual Report: Kris finished the report and will submit it to Parks Board this month.

Recycling Contest: A message about the contest will appear on residents' utility bills. Stickers publicizing the contest will be made for City vehicles. An incentive program will be launched whereby residents can sign a pledge to recycle and earn coupons for local restaurants. Members discussed the format for the pledge and chose the most suitable one. The City will have drop boxes for multi-family dwellings, since they currently do not have the option of curbside recycling.

Home Expo: Members signed up for either a morning or afternoon shift. The ERCFC will be passing out seedlings, handing out information, asking residents to take the recycling pledge, discussing Don Eberwine's EAB visuals, and drawing names for the Gator Bag giveaways. Seedlings will need to be bagged when they arrive – TBA.

ERCFC Name Change: This issue was tabled until after the busy season ahead.

Sustainability Plan: Dwight Culberson wants to hear from Tom and Mike about ERCFC ideas. Mike provided an explanation of such a plan's purpose: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

Tree Utilization Workshop: Ben attended this workshop to learn how other cities are dealing with the tremendous number of trees killed by EAB infestation. A portable sawmill was featured. The lumber could be used for park benches, possibly at the Memorial Grove. Some businesses such as Honeywell and Formica might be able to use the trees. The cost of transport is a major hurdle. Ben will follow this issue.

Miami River Clean Sweep: This event will be held on Saturday morning, May 10. ERCFC will run one of the stations. Members were encouraged to participate.

Big Tree Photo Display: Kris will check on how much is in the budget for this project. Karen and Veronica will work together. The budget will determine its scope.

New Business

Goals: A discussion of short and long term goals will be part of next month's ERCFC meeting agenda.

Election of Officers

Chairperson: Kris Roselle agreed to serve for one more year.

Vice Chair for Forestry: Karen Fields Vice Chair for Environment: Mike Lane

Secretary: Chris Hacker

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 6:00 pm, CAC

Calendar:

Birdhouse Workshop – 3/8/2008

Energy Committee Meeting – 3/11/2008, Waste Water Plant

Parks Board Meeting – 3 /11/2008, CAC

Phalen Center Grand Opening – 3/13/2008, South Trace Golf Course

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

Miami River Clean Sweep – 5/10/2008

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

Adjournment at 8:25pm