

**Environmental Commission Meeting
September 2, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairperson Dave Colteryahn

In Attendance:

Dave Colteryahn, chair
Greg LoBuono, vice-chair
Veronica Craig
Becky Montag
Tom Nault
Rita Rings
Gwen Ritchie
Bob Schappacher, Parks and Recreation Representative

Absent: All present. Two positions remain open following resignations

Approval of Minutes -The minutes for the August 5th, 2015 meeting were approved with corrections.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles

Becky shared a picture of a tree aesthetically poorly trimmed to clear power lines. Gwen pointed out that the method used was within guidelines, however.

Rita reported spotting a dozen monarchs and one zebra swallowtail at Huffman Park. Rita also mentioned a link on the Cincinnati Nature Center website (cincynature.org) to the new Milkweed to Monarchs website (milkweedtomonarchs.org) with interactive maps to report if you see a milkweed plant, monarch egg, caterpillar, or adult butterfly. This site also lists business locations where milkweed seeds are available free of charge or how to order them online.

Hours Spent on EC Activities

Dave/1, Greg /1, Rita/1, Tom/10, Gwen/3. For July and August, Roni reported 1/4

Adopt-A-Roadway

Roni reported a positive second pass.
Greg is responsible for September/October.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the monthly meeting was held at Marsh Lake. Members toured the new side of the lake. Marsh Lake will be an item in the 2016 budget. The first public meeting to discuss the master plan for Marsh Lake is scheduled for September 24th. Local residents have been notified by mail but the meeting is open to all Fairfield residents. Bob shared a draft map of the Marsh Park Programming Plan.

Parks Department Report

Bob reported that an architect has not yet been chosen for the update of Harbin Park.

Informational boards are in the works to educate visitors about the addition of a bee apiary and wildflower site at Huffman Park.

Interest in the Honor Grove at Creekside Park continues strong.

Commissioner Reports

Several potential nominees for the Friends of Fairfield Forest award were discussed.

Other Business

Tom reported on his attendance at the 2015 SW Ohio Summer Conclave field day specifically designed for Tree Commission Academy participants. The meeting was held in Wilmington, Ohio on August 11th.

The Environmental Commission members agreed to purchase at members' expense a European purple beech for the Honor Grove at Creekside Park as a memorial tree for Rodney Spencer.

Gwen gave a detailed review of the Junior homework that she, Roni, and Tom have completed in preparation for the Junior session of the Tree Commission Academy.

Gwen also mentioned that, as a volunteer master gardener, she will be dividing iris bulbs at the Elisha Morgan Mansion this fall. Gwen would like to offer these many bulbs to the Park Department for transplanting elsewhere.

Tom asked about the fate of the Tree City sign that was removed in front of Bob Evans on Gilmore. Bob will investigate.

Tom also mentioned the honeysuckle removal event scheduled for October 24th at Harbin Park. Bob reported that this new event was created by Part-Time Naturalist Sara Fehring, who has since found full-time employment elsewhere.

Tom will be attending the Invasive Plant Walkabout at Hamilton County's Glenwood Gardens on September 8th.

Calendar

Parks Board Meeting—Tuesday September 15th at 6:00 pm @ CAC

TCA—Junior Year Meeting September 21st and 22nd in Hamilton

Public Meeting to discuss Marsh Lake master plan—September 24th 7-9 pm @ CAC

EC Meeting—October 7th at 6:00 pm @ CAC

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm