

ERCFC
MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 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
Tim Meyers, City Council Representative
Dave Couch, City Customer Service Manager

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 7th meeting were approved with the change of “Silver Award” to the correct “Sterling Award.”

Welcome New Members: Tim Meyers launched the new joint commission by welcoming the two new members, Andrew Glatfelter and Ruth Wells, praising the CFC as one of the most sought after community service commissions on which to serve. He discussed some possible areas of focus for the coming year, encouraging the group to “keep it wide open so that everyone’s strengths are tapped.”

Standing Business

Website Statistics: Ben will have a report at the February meeting.

Correspondence/Articles: Tom brought in the 2007 issues of *Arbor Day*, Veronica had several articles about the continuing EAB problem, and Ben shared an article about area school children recycling wood from ash trees lost to EAB.

Hours Spent on Nov. & Dec. FFC Activities: Kris had 19.5 volunteer hours. Mike, Ruth, Steve and Andrew each had 1. Karen worked 1.5 hours, while Chris, Bob and Veronica each had 2.

Adopt-a-Roadway: Kris will take the March slot for clean-up. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the last meeting focused on the opening of the new golf course, tentatively scheduled for March 15, 2008.

Also discussed was the Black Bottom Property. There is a preliminary master plan in place, and an ODNR grant is being sought.

Old Business

Tree Lottery Plantings, Marker and Vouchers: The project is nearly complete. There are a few trees to replace, due to the drought, and a small number of markers left to install. Ben explained the lottery, etc. to the new members. As for the vouchers for use at local nurseries, restrictions must be established so that the trees remain in Fairfield.

Backyard Habitat: Karen e-mailed the necessary information to Ben, and he will make sure it gets on the website.

Birdhouse Workshop: Steve chose a simple, easy to clean plan that uses an 11 oz. coffee can. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8 at the CAC.

Seedling Order: Three hundred sugar maple seedlings have been ordered and will be shipped on the week of March 23rd. They will need to be bagged, date and time TBA.

Gator Bags: The bags are available for around \$15 each. ERCFC will give them away at the Home Expo this year. A sign-up sheet was suggested, only one bag per household.

Tree City USA and Growth Awards: The CFC qualified for the Tree City USA Award, but spending for 2007 fell short of the previous year because of street tree plantings, so the Commission did not earn the Growth Award. The Sterling Award requires ten consecutive years of growth, so, despite qualifying for three years, the Commission will have to start over working toward this.

Tree Nursery Proposal: Mike reported that Cincinnati Financial was not interested in helping establishing a tree nursery. Dave Crouch, who is very familiar with Fairfield's business community, said he would give some thought to a suitable location and possibilities for a corporate sponsor.

City Council Presentations: The ERCFC chose the Monday, February 25 City Council Meeting to make the presentations.

Memorial Grove: There is money in the 2008 Capital Improvement Fund for another buyout. Marking the trees will be finished this spring. In the meantime, The Commission would like to view the current plan.

New Business

Educational Opportunities: EAB Wood Utilization Workshop – Feb. 22

Stormwater Management – Feb. 1
Butler County Tree and Groundcover Sale

Dave Crouch: Dave was present to request help on the Energy Team, which will examine issues such as greenhouse gases, carbon footprints, etc. and how they impact our city. He acknowledged the scope is vast. He hopes to tap all resources possible.

New Officers: Choosing new officers will be discussed at the February meeting.

ERCFC Goals: Kris suggested that the new, joint Commission should ask, “Where do we start and what is our focus?” Bob Breen shared an environmental pledge used by a city in Iowa. Becoming a “Green City” was brought up, and Tom will check about a Sustainability Policy. Steve suggested that someone from Duke Energy be invited to the Home Expo. In addition, Ruth will contact Ann Fiehr-Flaig. Karen and Veronica will work on a new name and logo. Kris will contact Tom Hedge about tax credits. All will report results at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 6:00 pm, CAC

Calendar:

CFC Meeting – 2/6/2008

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

CFC Meeting – 3/5/2008

Birdhouse Workshop – 3/8/2008

CFC 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

Adjournment at 8:08pm