

**Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2009**

In Attendance:

Karen Fields, Chair
Liz Hunter
Steve Welte
Veronica Craig
Ben Strickler, Parks and Recreation Representative
Bob Breen, Parks Board Liaison

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Minutes: September and October minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Standing Business

Correspondence/Articles: Veronica brought in the *National Geographic* issue featuring giant redwoods. Ben included the article "Arborists Weigh Options for Ash Trees" in this month's packet. Steve read Sara Goldschmidt's message thanking the Environmental Commission for sponsoring the Bat House Workshop for the children.

Hours Spent on ECFC Activities: Karen-4, Greg-3, Bob-1, Steve-20, Dave-10, Aaron-5, and Veronica-10

Adopt-a-Roadway: Christine and Veronica completed the October clean-up.

Parks Board Report

Bob reported that the meeting was a short one that dealt with the operating budget, which increased 1.5%. New member Dick Wood was introduced.

Parks Department Report

Website Update: Ben included the website statistics with this month's packet

Memorial Tree Grove Update: Karen, Steve and Veronica met on site to help mark the walkway and to choose overlook areas.

Sustainability Plan: No update this month

Tree Lottery: Winners have been chosen and will be notified. Vouchers will be issued for either Meyer's or Lakeview.

EAB Update: Included in this month's info packet was Jim Bell's quarterly report on the EAB Management Plan. High value ash trees were treated.

Tree Nursery: No new information

Muskopf Road Tree Plantings: Planting spaces will be marked this week. The trees will carry a one year guarantee.

Commission Reports

Website Content/Update: In an e-mail, Mike suggested stressing the “reuse, rethink, recycle” message on the EC website.

Karen visited the website *treebenefits.com* which calculates the value of specific trees. She thinks it might be an interesting link for the Environmental Commission.

Bat House Workshop: The workshop was held on 10/10/09 for eleven children and it went very well. The following Friday, two different groups of children participated in an after-school workshop. The first group had sixteen children, and the second had 6. All agreed it was lots of fun and very, very noisy.

Other Business

Tree City USA: Ben has received the application from Wendi. Commission members discussed completed projects and possible categories to earn points.

Friends of Fairfield: Because there wasn't a quorum, the final decisions will have to be postponed until next month. Some new nominations were discussed.

Administrative: Ben will bring the catalog for the shirts next month.

Communication Reports: None

Street Tree Inventory: Karen found a “Connect-a-Desk” laptop holder online for \$35. She passed the information on to Ben. She also asked that the species list on the new program be fixed.

Tree Commission Academy: No one from Fairfield will be participating this session.

2009 Report/ 2010 Goals: The Commission would like to broaden their scope for next year, using water as its theme. Tim McClelland has been a vital liaison and the EC will continue to reach out to his Consortium. The Home Expo will be in April of 2010. River Sweep will be in May. Keeping with the water theme, rain gardens might be featured. Steve suggested that the spring construction project be a birdbath. Members will brainstorm for ideas and materials in the months ahead.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 6:00 pm, CAC

Calendar:

Parks Board Meeting: 11/10/09, 5:30 pm, CAC

EC Meeting – 12/02/09, 6:00pm, CAC

Energy Committee Meeting – no date set

Adjournment: at 7:19 pm.