
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Diane Amico, who read the public notice. In attendance were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen, Brad Giordano, Christine Brown, and guest Tiara Campbell.

A motion was made by Sue Fenili to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting. John Pedersen seconded, and all were in favor.

There will be no budget report until this year's budget is approved by City Council.

Agenda Items:

Giampietro Park raingarden - The Public Works department has put several restrictions on location, number, and spacing of plants at Giampietro. Reasons cited were ability to mow, keep the stream-side clear, and visibility. If planted according to the restrictions, this planting project does not meet the goals of a raingarden. John Pedersen said the area should be sprayed or plowed first so weeds and grass do not come up between the plants. There is a question of whether spraying would be allowed in this area or who would be permitted to do it. A discussion followed of what farmers in the area have plows that might be willing to volunteer to assist. Tiara will continue to work on the plan and the EC members will look for volunteers and plant donations. A list of possible plant species was passed around and had also previously been emailed to members. Diane confirmed with the group that everyone is still in favor of proceeding even if there are restrictions on what/where/how to plant. All were in favor. The project is still scheduled for April 2, with a rainedate of April 9.

Site Plan reviews – Diane said an application is coming in for LIDL grocery store, who wants to build on W. Landis Ave. next to the Delsea Shoprite. Several members believe that there is a very large tree on that property that may be listed in the Big Tree Registry. Sue and David will both try to verify with more information.

Education – Newspaper Articles - No report.

Volunteer Projects - John Pedersen is trying to get a determination from Rick Tonetta on the possibility of the Scouts camping at either Willow Oak or the Maurice River Conservation Area. The scouts would want to have campfires. Allowing the scouts to camp at natural areas might create interest in volunteering to help maintain those sites.

One resident of Vineland who had previously volunteered with litter cleanups did email Diane about more volunteer opportunities. Diane forwarded contact information to John P. John also talked to the Rotor-Act kids, who are high-school aged, and to the Scouts about repairing the footbridge at the Maurice River Conservation Area.

Willow Oak – Diane did speak to Dale Elbeuf regarding the damaged split rail fence, the grading needed in the stone parking lot, and the general upkeep of the sign areas. Dale said he would follow up. It was noted that the field still needs to be mowed.

Wildflower/milkweed areas - The Compassionate Friends group still plan to do a Monarch Butterfly release in the spring. It was discussed that there are only specific species of Monarchs that should be released and there are other species that should be avoided because they could bring disease to the local butterflies. Sue and David will both follow up to get more information, and will let Diane know so she can advise the non-profit group the best way to proceed.

Maurice River Conservation Area Footbridge - John Pedersen is currently working on getting this done by a Scout or volunteer.

Arbor Day - Sue Fenili reported that the project is under way and letters are out to the schools.

Old Business - David has not found out whether the property on W. Elmer Rd, next to S. Vineland Park is still for sale. He will have his broker write a letter to the owner.

New Business - John Pedersen said the Myrtle Street trees are in need of maintenance. This could be a future volunteer day project.

Tree Committee - Sue Fenili, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen
No report

A motion was made by Sue for Adjournment, seconded by David, all were in favor.