
Vineland Environmental Commission
Minutes
January 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Diane Amico and the public notice was read.

Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen, Brad Giordano, and guest Christine Brown.

A motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.

No Chairperson's report. The budget is set at zero for the new year until the new budget is approved. All line items were requested to remain the same as last year, plus an extra stipend request for a "liaison" for a City employee.

Agenda Items:

Site Plan reviews – none

Education – Newspaper Articles – none

Volunteer Projects - John Pedersen is visiting the Boy Scouts tomorrow. The Scouts have requested to do a camping sleepover at Willow Oak. The EC does not have the authority to permit this so it is advised that they contact Dale Elbeuf. A motion was made by Charles Valentine that the Commission be in favor of supporting the scouts' request to camp in the nature area, seconded by Brad Giordano, all were in favor. John has also contacted Cumberland County College but has not received a response.

Willow Oak – The parking lot is in need of work, such as respreading of the gravel and repair of the split-rail fence. Diane is still trying to find out if it is too late this year to schedule a prescribed burn of the field. John Casadia will contact Public Works about getting the field mowed.

Wildflower/milkweed areas - A butterfly release is being planned by the Compassionate Friends non-profit group for the spring at Romano Park near the milkweed.

Maurice River Conservation Area Footbridge - There is an open purchase order for Universal Supply for materials. There was discussion on what types of materials will be needed. John Pedersen will follow up.

Arbor Day - Sue Fenili reported that Ferrucci has lowered some of the item prices to accommodate our budget. They had the cheapest prices of the quotes she obtained. Diane printed Guidebooks, as they are no longer available in print for purchase. Also included in the purchase will be some trees for the VDID.

Old Business: none

New Business: Sue met with the Mayor to discuss litter around Vineland, especially on Hendee Rd, and also around City Hall. The Mayor informed her there is a "City Now" trailer for keeping Vineland clean that is stocked with tools, rakes, gloves, clippers, etc. which is a partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. It is unknown where the trailer is kept or who oversees it's use. Sue also discussed with the Mayor the sloppiness of the city's trash collection, which is contributing to the litter problem. The Mayor has indicated that in the spring he would like to starting taking center-city walks with Sue to identify issues.

Giampietro Park: Tiara Campbell of the CCIA has followed up with Bob Garcia and with Brian Myers regarding the location of a rain garden at Giampietro Park. The members questioned the location as well as the

4' height limit for plants, as well as the stipulation to maintain a 20' space between the plantings and the pond. Diane will try to find out how they made the determination.

Tree Committee - Sue Fenili, John Casadia, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen

Tree Maintenance Contracts: There is some money left on the Asplundh purchase order so perhaps they can do one more day of stump grinding.

A motion for adjournment was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.