

Vineland Environmental Commission
Minutes of Special Interim Meeting
July 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Lisa Fleming. Present were: Lisa Fleming, David Lowenstern, John Pedersen, Christine Brown, and City Liaison Diane Amico.

Public notice of the meeting had been given more than 48 hours in advance by posting written notice on the bulletin board at City Hall, given to the City Clerk, and sent to the Daily Journal and Atlantic City Press. Lisa gave a review of the procedure for Open Public meeting notices, as well as what constitutes a quorum, including both in person and electronically, such as for emails.

Lisa had previously made a list of questions and requests for the City Engineering Department and walked the Landis Avenue area with D.J. Maillet, where she asked for a redesign of the planters. It is possible the contractor may ask for a change-order for more money. The Environmental Commission cannot be near the contractor while working. The City's Engineering Office gave permission for the Commission to complete one tree planter after the contractor is done. They will leave one with a 5' x 8' space for one tree. The contractor will do pavers but the Environmental Commission needs to do the edging. The tree area is at the Northwest corner of 7th St. and Landis Ave. in front of PNC Bank.

John Pedersen described the area as it is currently, and discussed different ways to complete the planter area. Also discussed were the need for education for Public Works and VMEU employees and ending of practices that are harming the trees. The items needed for the planter can be purchased locally. Tree damage should be limited by the redesign that includes edging and mulch. It was noted that we should stay away from the type of red mulch that someone previously used on the Landis Avenue trees. Volunteers have been removing this mulch and replacing it with leaf mulch and topsoil.

John Pedersen made a motion to approve up to \$100 from any authorized city vendor for materials needed for the tree planter at 7th & Landis Ave. Seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.

Lisa said she spoke to DJ Maillet about the pavers stored inside the tree circles and about putting something in bid specs saying that contractors cannot do this. This may already be in the specs, and if it is not, the Environmental Commission can provide something that can be "cut and pasted" into the specs. It was agreed that the Commission would like to participate in future bid specs. In September, Engineering is re-doing their standard bid specs and at that time can look at any changes to be made.

There was discussion regarding ways to have a seminar for education for City employees. It was noted that the Commission has done this in the past.

Regarding the mowing of the raingarden plants at Giampietro, Diane spoke to Dale Elbeuf who said he will tell the maintenance crews not to touch the raingarden area at all.

Lisa said she saw Monarch butterflies at Romano Park, and that the milkweed there has a lot of aphids. Meeting adjourned by consensus.