

Environmental Commission

Vineland Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes - Regular meeting
January 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Lisa Fleming. The secretary read the public notice. In attendance were: Lisa Fleming, John Casadia, Sue Fenili, Brad Giordano, David Lowenstern, Diane Amico, City Liaison, and guest Christine Brown. (John Pedersen entered later.)

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2016 regular meeting was made by Brad Giordano and seconded by John Casadia. All were in favor.

Chairperson's Report & Budget – Lisa Fleming said that Annual Reports are due for ANJEC and for the Community Forestry Management Plan. She will draft those.

New Mayor and Council - There is no City Council liaison required to be assigned to the Commission. A motion that the Environmental Commission approach City Council to request a liaison was made by David Lowenstern and seconded by John Casadia. Lisa abstained; all else were in favor. David will draft a letter and forward to the Chairperson for review. We also have the option of speaking directly to the Council President, Paul Spinelli.

Sustainable Jersey - The first reading of the Water Conservation ordinance is on the Council agenda for tomorrow night. It is at the top of the agenda for discussion. Not all members are in agreement with all aspects of the ordinance. The Council meeting is at 5:30 if anyone would like to attend and/or comment.

City Engineering - It was previously thought that at the meeting of 12/15/16 no tree or design issues would be discussed, but it turned out that 3 projects were actually discussed. Lisa and John Pedersen were in attendance. John said the project on Landis Ave from Delsea Drive to the Boulevard did not show any trees at all. Regarding tree preservation guidelines, the Commission did get a response from DJ Maillet, who said some tree protection detail was added to the requirements of the contract. In the future the tree planter areas hopefully should be different and will include more area. John P. said there are many areas around Vineland where City Engineering did not look out for preserving the trees during construction.

Newspaper Articles - The Daily Journal published the tree article written by David.

City Hall Information Table / Events - Sue did speak to the Barnegat Bay Partnership about the literature on native plants, and they gave the o.k. to copy and distribute their pamphlets. They are going to send an electronic file to Sue. If we purchase paper copies, the cost is \$0.50 each. There is some concern that residents will not think it applies to Vineland if the literature is labelled as a Barnegat Bay pamphlet, so we can cover it up or change that if needed, and Sue said they are o.k. with that. As per the motion of last month's meeting, Diane did begin to purchase some other literature for distribution, including Tree Volcano brochures and instructions for property tree planting. Lisa also obtained a pack of cards on native plants that the Commission can distribute. David would like to send letters to landscapers. He will draft a letter for review.

Mulch - There is a new purchase order for mulch at South Jersey Landscape Supply.

"I am your new tree" - tags on trees. John Capizola at D'Ippolito is in charge of tree planting, and is not happy with the custodial staff. Tree bark guards have been ordered.

Recognizing the FLDS missionaries; they are still active.

Heist Insurance

PROJECTS

Giampietro Park Rain Garden – preparing for Spring / Bamboo stand

Wildflower/milkweed areas - seed purchase?

Giampietro circle / front field / Romano Park

Nature Areas / Parks / Open Space

Burnt Mill - update on City activity

White Cedar (MRCA)

Willow Oak - Controlled burn, Trails, Maintenance

Budget - 2017 budget items

Site Plan reviews

Old Business

Trash on streets & city properties

City Gardener / Forester

Bike and Pedestrian Trails

Stormwater – Green Infrastructure

New Business

Water Conservation

Priorities and Progress

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

School trees – help with care

Downtown Street Trees

Plans for Spring

VDID - re-planting of Community Tree

NJ Tree Foundation

Street Tree Cutting ordinance / Tree Committee Notification

Tree Maintenance around Power Lines – trenching near trees

CFMP goals / street tree inventories

Adjournment