

Vineland Environmental Commission

Minutes – Regular meeting

December 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Sue Fenili, Lisa Fleming, John Pedersen, Charlie Valentine, and David Lowenstern.

A motion to approve the **minutes** of the November 13, 2018 meeting was made by Charlie Valentine and seconded by Lisa Fleming. All were in favor.

The **budget report** was passed around for review. All current year line items are spent except for some of the Professional Services line item. There is not a lot of time left in the year to arrange for more work, but we need some supplies for the hangers, wood, screws and wire for the panels. A motion to order supplies for hangers up to \$150 was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by Sue Fenili. All were in favor.

There was discussion about printing additional copies of the ERI and/or maps. There are some issues with the current book that Diane needs to discuss with Brinkerhoff. A motion was made by Charlie Valentine to remedy the maps for reproduction and get corrected copies of the ERI. David Lowenstern seconded. All were in favor.

A motion to order 10 more panels from Market Fuel was made by David Lowenstern and seconded by Charlie Valentine. All were in favor.

Purchasing the materials for the display hangers and ordering 10 additional panels is priority. Then updating the maps is next, then if anything is left we will print additional copies of the ERI.

It was noted that some **members terms** have expired in October; Diane will call the Mayor.

2019 meeting schedule – We will keep the same schedule of 2nd Monday at 7:00 p.m. In 2019 there are two days hitting holidays (Oct & Nov) so meetings will be on Tuesdays. A motion to approve the schedule was made by Charlie Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.

Roots to Rivers Grant: Emma Melvin and Melanie from AmeriCorps are working on two different project applications, for the Maurice River riparian buffer and for Giampietro Park. We are not sure if EPA will give clearance to plant on the Maurice River site. Some of the monitoring wells on some parts of the entire former Vineland Chemical superfund site have shown additional arsenic coming up from the groundwater. However, this is not happening on the area where we would like to do the planting. Diane has spoken to NJDEP also, to assist with obtaining permission.

Volunteer work days: John Pedersen said there were some good turnouts in the last month, and they collected 50 bags of litter in North Vineland and 40 bags on the Boulevard. There is a group text thread that works well to notify people of activities. Sue would like to be on the list. Mulch and stakes are available and ready to be picked up at Reuben's. We also have a purchase order available at Coia's for perennials and/or mulch that was made available by Sharon Flaim. Diane can meet someone there to facilitate.

It was noted that the **milkweed area** on Maple Avenue is becoming overgrown with woody growth. This will be added to the list of things to do on volunteer days.

Plastic bag legislation: David has not yet looked up additional information.

Library display Will run from January 1 to January 31. We can set up the day or two before; Diane will email everyone with the exact day/time that we can set up. The reception is Saturday January 12 from 10:00 a.m.

until 12:00 p.m. All programs have to be done by 12:30. We are allowed to bring refreshments. Diane, John & Ellen, and Michelle Ernst are planning to meet this Sunday to review all of the display boards before printing. Other items to be done: 1) affixing the litter to the litter board and 2) getting a birdhouse from John Casadia. Diane thanked members for assisting with the content of the panels. The Library does their own publicity for exhibits and the City will put a notice on Facebook. Sue will contact the editor of the Daily Journal regarding getting an announcement in the paper.

Willow Oak: John P. said John Lauria plans to walk the trails at Willow Oak for the updated map. There is a new bridge made by a Boy Scout with 30 or 40 feet of new boardwalk and handrail, and new directional arrows on trail signs. Also, we can use some gravel to fill in some low spots. It was noted that there is some drug use going on there. The fence horizontal pieces are o.k. but the verticals are rotted. John Pedersen has tried to fix some of them.

Maurice River Conservation Area needs No Hunting signs erected. Some have been lost and some areas were never done.

JP suggested to Rick Tonetta about cameras for the nature area, smoking, condoms, underwear, West Side Park also. Places at the edge of the city, police don't go, but if they got notice. Also drinking and bottles on the ground all over. It was noticed that both at West side park, and at willow oak when we are there several cars pull into the lot and leave when they see someone there. At willow Oak day, Diane saw at least a half dozen cars pull in then leave when they saw her and the cars. Security has been an ongoing issue with all of the nature areas. Diane said Dale / recreation department is having similar issues with vandalism in the parks.

Site plans: John Casadia could not attend but sent notes which Diane read into record. The Airport site on Delsea Drive was approved by the Planning Board, although John Casadia voted "no". There are still several steps the developer must take before beginning construction. The RK site plan on Delsea Drive was reviewed. Some clear cutting of the site will be done which will increase their impervious coverage. The site is over 5 acres so they should be subject to the developers replanting requirement. There was discussion of impervious coverage regarding some pending legislation at the State level that would require developers to incorporate green infrastructure in projects. If anyone wants to review the site plan further, they can come to the office to review. John Pedersen also mentioned the over-abundance of lighting and light pollution, and effects on wildlife. John will take the plan and may have time to review for comments so we can have specifics. If possible, he will email some notes with specifics to be forwarded to the Planning Board.

Tree Committee: David spoke to Mr. DiBiase, the previous president of the Disc Golf Club, who had made a promise to replant 5 trees at South Vineland Park. He is no longer involved with the Club, and it is unknown whether the new president will honor the agreement.

Tree Seedlings: The application is approved and our Seedling Giveaway date is April 1st. John Pedersen suggested we purchase additional trees. We will discuss this when it gets closer. He also discussed the idea of the City creating its own nursery.

Invasive Plant Restrictions Legislation: Diane had previously forwarded notice of pending State legislation regarding invasive plant sale restrictions. Parrotfeather is not on the list, but maybe should be. Members who are interested can call their legislators to support the bill.

Charlie passed out pins that say "Love Our Trees".

A motion to adjourn was made by Charlie and seconded by David. All were in favor.