

Vineland Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were Diane Amico, Sue Fenili, John Pedersen, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, and guests Sarah Hullihen, Cheryl Hullihen, Michele Ernst, and Watershed Ambassador Loretta Pregartner.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018 meeting was made by Sue Fenili and seconded by Charles Valentine. David Lowenstern abstained. All else were in favor.

Kids to Parks Day: Sarah Hullihen discussed plans for Kids to Parks Day to be held on May 20th. The event has been posted on the City's Facebook page. The Chairperson passed around a sign-up sheet for members who can help that day. Diane Amico will bring a first-aid kit. From the City, Sharon Flaim of Recycling, Lisa Lucena from VMEU, and the Environmental Commission will attend. Diane sent the notice to the Board of Education, but Sarah did not receive a flyer in class, so it is unknown whether the schools have distributed it to students. There was discussion of the planned events and necessary supplies. There is no raindate.

Watershed Ambassador: Loretta Pregartner discussed CCIA watershed partnership projects and the South Jersey Scrub cleanup planned for May 19th. More information is available online at SJScrub.org. There are several possible projects for which the Commission could partner with the CCIA. Loretta is in the same office as Cumberland County Clean Communities. There was discussion of the roadside litter problem in Vineland on County roads. Loretta said there are only a couple of people doing litter cleanup and the Adopt-a-Road program has been discontinued due to lack of participation.

Budget Report: A copy of the current budget was passed around for review. Diane obtained estimates for tree bark guards for \$2.25 each, but they are the clip-together type. Members said they prefer the curled type. Diane will call around for prices and availability. Diane obtained pricing for propping some leaning trees, for \$300 each. Members would like to see if we can find someone cheaper.

Kill-tone Superfund Site: Diane said the City Engineer, Brian Myers conveyed an update on the remediation status. There will be some soil removal near Chestnut Avenue continuing for 6 to 9 months. Some sycamore trees on 6th Street near Chestnut Ave. will be removed. The intention is to plant new trees when the project is done. They will likely replace the sycamores with smaller species due to proximity to power lines.

ANJEC/Rutgers Grant: There is nothing new to report since the last meeting.

Volunteer Work Days: John Pedersen worked all day Saturday with John Lauria. The other community service worker is working with Diane to update the Willow Oak flyer. There was discussion regarding painting the benches and picnic tables at Giampietro Park. It will not be completed in advance of the Kids to Parks day. All of the paint and supplies have been ordered. It would be good to be able to powerwash the concrete legs of the tables.

Library Design/Display Board: The display board was viewed in order to plan the display. The board has been damaged in storage and is twisted, making it difficult to stand up on its own. Sue brought litter samples with velcro for a section of the display that will illustrate how long items take to break down in a landfill. There are some items that are large which could be hung on the Library wall instead of on the display board. It was determined that the 3 panels of the board should be printed in a way as to be consistent in design. Michele Ernst may be able to help with the design. We will continue to discuss this at the next meeting.

Willow Oak Nature Area: Diane thanked everyone who helped with the cleanup and other work at Willow Oak this past month. There were 11 volunteers who attended the cleanup and trail-clearing. David sent a press release to the newspaper, but it has not yet been published. Trail map updates were reviewed for the new flyer that is in progress. We still have six 4 x 4 posts purchased last year for signage.

Giampietro Park: Regarding the raingarden sign, it was decided that the sign should just generally say "Environmental Commission Garden". Sue will talk to her son-in-law about doing the sign with this wording and will see if there can be a draft for review at the next meeting. Diane printed seed lists for raingarden mixes and monarch mixes from the Pinelands Nursery internet site. The seed mixes are expensive, but the list will be useful as knowledge for what types of plants to use in these areas.

Old Business:

Arbor Day: Sue said it went well and there were two articles in the Daily Journal. Sue said the students at Ellison School came out of the school, applauding, to greet the truck delivering their tree. The Daily Journal was not initially responsive to attending the events or writing an article, including for the issue of tree mulch volcano education, but Sue was persistent. After Arbor Day, we did purchase two additional trees from Hopewell Nursery for John Pedersen to plant at the Soldiers Home.

Site Plan Reviews: It was too late in the evening to begin site plan reviews. Diane said the corner of Mill Road and Oak Road was cleared of all trees by First Choice Freezers, who paid \$1500 into the tree fund. This amount was nowhere near enough but we missed the opportunity to comment on the site plan.

A motion to adjourn was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by David Lowenstern. All were in favor.