



**Open Space & Visual Environment Commission
Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 5:30 p.m.
City Hall Conference Room #1
85 South Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio**

Members Present: Wes Burgess, Eddie Miller, David Sokoll, David Sonner

Members Late: Aaron Mucciolo

Others Present: Jeff Baumann, Staff Support; Sheri Runals, Staff Support; Dennis Cuthbertson, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent

Others Absent: Kate Pilacky, Council Liaison

Chair Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2011

Sonner moved to approve the January 25, 2011 minutes as presented. Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Arbor Day

Burgess stated that the topic of the meeting was Arbor Day. Dennis Cuthbertson was present to discuss an Arbor Day subcommittee. He was looking to recruit a few members from the commission to help plan Arbor Day events. One member would be in charge of marketing. That member would write the press release to be placed in the News Tribune and pass out flyers. Someone else would help with tree selection, locations, prepping the locations, safety procedures, etc. Baumann advised that none of this is planned yet. We only have a history of what has been done in the past. Mucciolo and Sonner volunteered.

Burgess proposed a walking tour. He asked the commission members to look at maps and mark locations and/or trails for an Arbor Day celebration. He suggested the community garden at Legion Field as a point of interest. He wants people to feel invited at the gardens. Sonner added that people need to be more aware of, appreciative of, and more willing to help improve the hydrological features we have. A ditch, such as the one that runs along Legion Field, should be treated as a precious waterway.

The route for a walking tour needs to be limited. The tour could start at Legion Park and end at Oberlin Community Services. Baumann added that it may be a challenge to go to too many places. Some people may not want to spend half a day doing this especially if it is nice out. Burgess asked

the commission members to come up with ideas for 3-5 minute presentations – soil erosion, water resources, community effort in agriculture, etc. The National Arbor Day Foundation website has a lot of ideas. The tentative date for the Arbor Day celebration is Saturday, April 30th. The commission discussed different ideas for the celebration.

Miller stated that Zion CDC's annual meeting is February 24th. Sonner is a board member and will remark on the Arbor Day celebration.

The subcommittee will meet and report back to the commission at the March meeting.

Other Business

Burgess stated that the meadow ordinance will be going in front of council on three readings. An approved list a weeds is not included with the ordinance. A fee was not discussed but they do want the residents to register their property with the city. Burgess encouraged the commission members to attend the council meetings.


Burgess stated that Miller was very interested in the Greenbelt. A brief discussion was held on the Greenbelt.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. Motion by Mucciolo; seconded by Sokoll.



Wesley Burgess, Chair
Open Space and Visual Environment Commission



Sheri Runals
Staff Support

Approved: 3, 22, 11