

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2016

Vice Chairperson, Neil Herzberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present were Harry Thielen, Donovan Mayer, Mike Jensen, Chuck Koshiol, Chad Woelfel, and Brandon Michaelis. Also present was advisory member Ron Mergen, Public Works Director. Don Williamson, West Central Sanitation and Duane Olmscheid were absent. Also present was Bryan Kruger, Superintendent of Koronis Hills Golf Course.

Motion was made by Mayer to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2015 Environmental Committee Meeting minutes. Seconded by Koshiol and unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Thielen to elect the following officers:

Chairperson – Bev Aas

Vice Chairperson – Neil Herzberg

Secretary – Ron Mergen

Seconded by Koshiol and unanimously carried.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Koshiol to set the meeting dates for the second Thursday in March and the first Thursday in April at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Mayer and unanimously carried.

SPRING CLEAN UP & HHW COLLECTION

The date for the cleanup is scheduled for Saturday April 30th from 8 to 11 a.m. Members reviewed the flyer and pricing on each category and item. Michaelis noted price changes for the computers and TV's. Staff has confirmed that the ROSE Center will assist the handicapped residents with bringing items to the cleanup. Staff will contact West Central Sanitation, update the remainder of the items, and have the flyers ready to distribute at the next meeting. The HHW flyer was also reviewed and no issues were noted.

CURBSIDE SCAVENGING

Members discussed Scavenger Days and noted that as long as the only cost to the City is the advertising the City should continue the event.

COMPOST SITE

It was reported that the largest request or complaint from residents is the limited hours of operation at the site. Currently the site is open 6 to 8 hours per week. The other issue is the amount of debris/garbage that is left at the site. Mergen presented the following proposal:

The site would be open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. or dusk, whichever is earlier. The site would be opened by the Public Works Department and closed by the Paynesville Police Department. Members all agreed that the longer hours will benefit all uses and will likely increase usage. Surveillance will be conducted with three cameras placed to cover all incoming traffic where we can video an image of the vehicle, license plate, and driver. A second and third camera would be set to monitor the drops sites of compost and the brush pile. The surveillance system is estimated at a cost of \$2,775.00. The estimated start date could be June or July of 2016. The Committee discussed other options including:

- The City could install an electronic gate system and issue everyone a card to swipe; however, the electronic gate is approximately \$8,000.00 and the card reader system will be another \$4,000.00 plus monthly operational costs. To cover the cost of installation and operation the City would add a fee onto all utility bills and would anticipate the remaining cost to be split with Paynesville Township on a 62%:38% cost share.
- Paynesville Township could pay the cost of the Oil Depot and the City pay for the operation of the Compost Sites and set up a donation box.

It was discussed that for this season the Hockey Association would operate the site as in the past and receive a prorated payment based on the amount of time spent at the site.

An ordinance was also proposed in regards to regulating materials that are acceptable and materials that are not acceptable. The ordinance also sets a fine for anyone found to be in violation; \$250.00 for the first violation and \$500.00 for the second violation. It was suggested to add in Subdivision 3 to add plastic bags.

Motion was made by Mayer to approve the Compost Site Ordinance with the addition of plastic bags and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Koshiol and unanimously carried.

Motion was made by Koshiol to approve the proposed changes to the Compost Site operation with the site open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (or dusk) and install the surveillance system by July of 2016 and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Herzberg and unanimously carried.

BURNING AT THE GOLF COURSE REQUEST

Bryan Kruger, Koronis Hills Golf Course was in attendance to request a burning permit for the golf club. Kruger noted in the past they had burned there not knowing it is within the City limits. The brush pile is approximately 30 feet in diameter in size and located about 40 yards from the City/Township line. Members reviewed the existing ordinance and noted the ordinance does not allow for any open burning other than recreational fires. Also discussed was the smoke created from all fires and the effect it has on the residents with any respiratory issues. In conclusion, members again noted there is no means in the ordinance to approve the request and suggested to have the pile chipped, move the brush to the compost site, or move it to the Township in order to obtain a burning permit.

TOWNSHIP OIL DEPOT

Thielen reported that since 2009 the Oil Depot has taken in 47,560 gallons of oil, 1,244 gallons of antifreeze and 130 barrels of oil filters.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.