

Vineland Environmental Commission
Minutes – regular meeting
January 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Amico. The public notice was read into record. Present were: Diane Amico, John Casadia, Lisa Fleming, John Pedersen, Charles Valentine, David Lowenstern, and Anthony Coffee.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2018 meeting was made by Charles Valentine and seconded by John Casadia. All were in favor.

Budget report: All line items are at zero until the permanent budget is approved, so there is no printout of the budget. We are still able to make purchases.

Volunteer work days: 2 people from the LDS Church assisted John Pedersen mulching trees on Landis Park. The mulch and stakes order was picked up from Reuben's. The stakes do not have pointed ends. John Casadia offered to assist with cutting the ends. There was discussion about using bamboo, which sometimes roots into the ground. No Hunting signs need to be installed at natural areas on Union Road. Willow Oak has a lot of water on the trails.

Plastic Bag Legislation: no update. Diane has received recent feedback that the retailers are opposed to the plastic bag ban and it is difficult to get support for local legislation. Plastic bags cannot be put in our curbside recycling containers, but can be brought back to supermarkets to be recycled. There was discussion of litter problems related to plastics in the waterways, including at Giampietro Park.

Education: Library Display is going well and looks good. Everyone is pleased with how it looks. Diane did receive email from one resident who wants to volunteer. Diane thanked members for contributing to the display and for bringing food to the reception. Members contributed, and David will purchase a dinner gift card as a gift to Michelle Ernst for her work on the display. Diane will draft a letter from the Commission to be signed at the next meeting. No press coverage by the library was seen. The City posted it on Facebook. David offered to send photos and a blurb to the Daily Journal. Diane noted that the Library staff was very helpful. During the month there were occasional issues with visitors sleeping in the exhibit room.

Founder's Day and the EcoFair are coming up in the spring. We may consider attending with a display table. Also there is Super Science Saturday on 4/13 at Vineland High School from 9 a.m. to 12:00.

Willow Oak – David was there recently and noted there is a large tree down on the Post Rd. side just before the meadow. On the Landis Avenue side, the first trail on the right is very wet and could benefit from a load of gravel/stone. John Casadia can assist with moving the stone once it is delivered. We will revisit this discussion in the spring. Diane is trying to get something together in the way of a presentation to the Eagle Scout who built the bridge. John Pedersen is working on an updated map of

the site for a new entrance sign. A small updated map is still needed for the updated brochures. John Pedersen purchased some concrete stepping stones for an area leading up to one of the small bridges.

Giampietro Park Raingarden: Diane is still holding the perennials that are to be planted. It was noted that VHS also had a problem with Maintenance crews mowing their butterfly garden.

Roots For Rivers Planting Grants: We put in two different applications. The area near the Maurice River is the preferred project, but since EPA hesitated with giving approval, we submitted one for Giampietro Park as a back-up project. Diane spoke to DEP who intervened on our behalf. It turned out that the area being monitored for arsenic in groundwater are in a different part of the superfund site. Diane will let everyone know if we get word on the recipients of the grant.

Wildflower / Milkweed Areas: John Pedersen will follow up with the wildflower area designations. He had been waiting to meet with Mark Guglielmi so they could put something together for the County Freeholders, with City Council approval.

Site Plan Reviews: Family Dollar. It was agreed that the plan includes too much impervious coverage and is near the headwaters of the Tarkiln Branch stream which is already heavily polluted. The application asks for many variances, including a stormwater waiver. The details of the requested variances were discussed. There is not enough landscaping. Diane will prepare that reflects members' comments and will send it to Planning and to John Casadia for his comments at the meeting.

Old Business/New Business: none

Seedling Giveaway coming up April 1st. We will have a sign-up sheet when the date gets closer.

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