



TOWN OF HAMDEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Special Meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the main floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Mary Solis, Charlene Webb, Diane Hoffman, Peter Palmieri, Scott Howland, Carl Jordan, Agnes Orłowski

Commissioners Excused: Chad McCulley, Marietta Mattei, Sandra Serrano-Alvarado

Others in Attendance: Recycling Coordinator Pam Roach, Commission Clerk Gerry Tobin

1. Call to Order

Mr. Howland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Review Minutes of July 16, 2012

Page 2, 6th paragraph beginning with Ms. Roach, last line, change last sentence to read “Mr. Howland asked who”

Page 3, first paragraph, 4th line, change week to “weed”

Ms. Solis made a motion to approve the minutes of July 16th as amended. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.

3. Old Business

Trees:

Mr. Howland said we decided at the July meeting to draw a winner of the tree at tonight's meeting. We need to get Broken Arrow to donate the tree and get approval from the Town. We must also call the utilities and then we need to plant. Mr. Jordan and Ms. Mattei served on the subcommittee. Ms. Hoffman spoke for Ms. Mattei this evening. Ms. Hoffman said there are trees on the streets of all of the homeowners who responded to the article. Requests came in from 35 Garfield, 111 Rochford, 60 Underhill Road and 35 Arcadia. In addition, homeowners at 65 Willard Street and 45 Kildeer Road requested permission to plant trees on their own. Ms.

Hoffman mentioned the brochure from United Illuminating that described certain trees that could be planted in certain areas, including those that could be planted under overhead wires.

Clerk Tobin drew the winning application, and a tree will be planted at 111 Rochford Road.

Mr. Howland said he met with the Lions Club about their world wide tree planting program. They actually want to reforest an area that does not have any trees. Ms. Hoffman said she and Mr. Howland asked questions about the kind and size of trees. The Lions club has not contacted us. Mr. Howland said CT is the most heavily forested state in the United States. If they contact us again, Mr. Howland will forward the information to Ms. Roach.

Concert Cleanups:

Mr. Howland asked if there were any concerns or any lessons learned. The Commission saw a big improvement in the announcements. The people collecting with the buckets were better about collecting donations throughout the crowd.

Bumper Sticker Update:

Ms. Roach had the bumper magnets, which she distributed. The Town purchased 500. These can be distributed at Brooksvale Day, Earth Day, etc.

Mr. Howland mentioned Connie Vereen's concern about the property next door to her. Ms. Roach reported this issue to Mr. Zonas in Planning & Zoning. She will follow up.

Mr. Howland thanked everyone who came to the cookout on September 8th.

Recycling Coordinator Report

Pam thanked everyone for helping at HazWaste Central which was very busy, and for the concert cleanups. There were some issues at HazWaste that will be straightened out next year. The cars should be going clockwise, not counterclockwise. There is a new person there.

Mr. Howland expressed sympathy on behalf of the Commission to Mr. Jordan on the passing of his sister.

Mr. Howland congratulated Ms. Tobin on her retirement on behalf of the Commission. He said the Commission appreciates her professionalism, and is happy she will still be clerking the meetings of the Clean & Green Commission.

4. New Business

Ms. Webb mentioned a vacant lot at the corner of Goodrich and Dixwell Avenue. She said there are several churches surround this area, There are several construction type trucks parked on this particular property. She would like to see the lot fenced in something like the lot on Marne Street that that owner leases out for parking. At one point the lot was leased to the DOT. The lot is owned by Mr. Maturo. The Commission needs the address in order to check on zoning.

Mr. Howland announced that on Saturday, September 29th at 9:00 a.m., we will be helping with a cleanup on First Street with Betty Murray. Ms. Murray has all of her neighbors on board. Volunteers are Ms. Solis, Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Jordan, Ms. Orłowski and Mr. Howland.

QU Environmental group – Ms. Roach will contact them again.

October meeting – Craig Cesare, Public Works & Parks Director, will be at the October 15th Clean & Green meeting.

There was lengthy discussion on the condition of Dixwell Avenue. Ms. Webb expressed her frustration in having to bring up the same issue meeting after meeting. She would like to see more streetscaping done. Ms. Hoffman described what was said at the last Council meeting about the issues in southern Hamden. Mr. Howland felt neighborhood groups should be able to work on the litter issues, but when it comes to mowing, weed whacking, etc., the Town should take care of it. Ms. Hoffman said the people in Southern Hamden need to call their council representatives. Ms. Orłowski said her mother lives on Westwoods Road, and last winter the curb in front of her property was ripped up by the snow plows. She waited and waited to have it done, and finally her parents did it herself. A few days later, Public Works came by and said we thought we were supposed to do this!

Ms. Webb described the area near the Hess gas station. She said there is a mini mall inside that area. Mr. Sikorsky should talk to the owners about the litter and should provide a dumpster for the businesses there. Ms. Webb said she saw a woman dumping into a litter bin and suggested that her landlord should bet a dumpster for their business. The woman told her that other businesses are doing the same thing.

Ms. Roach said Mayor Jackson sent a nice letter to all of those businesses regarding upkeep of the property. Commissioners asked, then what happened? Has anything been done since? Ms. Roach said the neighborhood groups can do a great job. Ms. Webb said she is only talking about the street scape at lower Dixwell Avenue. If you drive into the neighborhoods in that area, they are in much better condition than Dixwell Avenue. Mr. Howland said Ms. Webb's point is well taken. Ms. Hoffman said we need to organize ourselves, find out who could help us, talk to council people, and talk to the businesses again.

Brooksvale Fall Festival

The Brooksvale Fall Festival will take place from 11-4 on October 13th with a rain date of October 14th. There will be no tents this year. Mr. Howland and Mr. Palmieri will be there at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Jordan will work at 11:00 and Ms. Orłowski at noon.

Mr. Jordan mentioned trash under the liner at the corner or Whitney Avenue and Central.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk