

## CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

### *“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”*

**MINUTES:** The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Commissioners in Attendance: Carl Jordan, Agnes Orłowski, Marietta Mattei, Charlene Webb, Scott Howland, Mary Solis, Sandra Serrano-Alvarado, Chad McCulley

Commissioners Absent: Peter Palmieri

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 November 19, 2012

remove first sentence on page 2, add Sandra Serrano-Alvarado to those absent

**Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2012 as corrected. Ms. Solis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

3. Old Business

Mr. Howland thanked Ms. Mattei for putting the annual report together. It was sent to Mayor Scott Jackson on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

4. New Business

Ms. Roach said she is hoping that this Commission will do the scavenger hunt for Earth Day. Mr. Howland has some of the supplies. Ms. Orłowski will touch base with Paradise nurseries for the donation of plants for prizes. Exhibitors submit questions and Ms. Roach decides which ones to use. There was discussion about the location of the Clean & Green pencils. Ms. Roach needs the Commission's exhibitor forms and question. In the past, paper was purchased for the questions and the certificates and copies were made in the Mayor's Office.

Election of Officers

Mr. Jordan nominated Ms. Mattei for the position of Commission Chair. Ms. Mattei refused the nomination. Mr. Howland explained that the Chair is responsible for some work after hours,

scheduling, etc. He has held the position of Chair for three years, and feels it is time for someone else to take over. The Commission decided to come back to the election of officers later in the meeting.

Earth Day:

Mr. Howland suggested that as Earth Day gets closer, the Commission form subcommittees. We also need to find the candidates for the Orchid Award.

Mr. Howland asked Ms. Roach if the Town needs help cleaning Freedom Park. The Park has been fixed up with new evergreens, the fountain has been repaired, and the Park will be rededicated in the spring, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this park dedicated to those missing in action in Vietnam. Ms. Roach responded that Dean delGuidice, a teacher from Hamden Middle School participated in the new plantings at the Park and his class will do some planting of annuals and cleanup of the Park.

Mr. Howland received a letter from Mayor Jackson thanking the Commission for helping to make Hamden a better community. He mentioned the litter often discussed at our meetings and said sometimes peer pressure is an effective tool for getting something done. He asked if the Commission would be willing to co-sign an letter to be sent to businesses asking them for their cooperation. Mr. Howland responded in the affirmative. He is not sure that the letter went out.

Mr. Howland asked if there was anything new on the Newhall tree program. Ms. Mattei responded that she thought that the trees were purchased from a grant and it was a one time only thing. Ms. Roach agreed and said the planting is either completed or there are still more trees to be planted in the spring. The Commission would like to plant another tree.

Mr. Howland reported that Economic Development Director Dale Kroop spoke at a meeting of the Dunbar Hill Civic Association about encouraging businesses to move to Hamden and retaining businesses here in Hamden. He said the Commission should keep Mr. Kroop in mind as a guest speaker for our Commission. One thing that came up was the road paving in Town. The Town contracted out for a firm to evaluate the roads based on the state of the road, the amount of traffic using the road, and the number of times Public Works has been to the road for repairs. All the roads in Town have been graded 1-10. The Town paves 10-12 miles of road each year, and now has a method on which to base its paving decisions. There was discussion on the road conditions at the intersection of Shepard Avenue and Mix Avenue.

Mr. Howland wants to propose getting away from the planned cleanups, which depend on sponsorship, which is like pulling teeth. He checked the roads around his house (Gorham, Benham, Cooper, etc.) and picked up trash three weekends in a row. He suggested commissioners take it upon themselves to clean up an area. He would like to see neighbors helping out. He does think the concert cleanups are great. Mr. Howland called this the Charlene Model. She cleans around Winchester Avenue, the park, etc. Ms. Orłowski feels the best part of the public cleanups is the publicity. People know we are doing it. Mr. Howland will bring cleanup supplies to the next meeting so commissioners can take pickers, gloves and bags. There was discussion on how to dispose of the bags, either bringing them home and putting them out with the trash, or leaving the bag and reporting it to Ms. Roach via email.

Ms. Mattei said she usually takes care of the Orchid Awards, and will be glad to do that. She feels that she has a good handle on business owners, but Ms. Hoffman used to come up with the civic organization/person. Ms. Orłowski mentioned that her neighbors clean up the canal trail behind Home

Depot every weekend and might be candidates for the civic award.

Action Items:

two commission vacancies – Ms. Roach will report this to Mayor's Office

Ms. Orlowski will contact Paradise Nurseries regarding plants for Earth Day prizes

Mr. Howland will locate certificates and pencils for Earth Day

Mr. Howland will report potholes to Public Works and Parks Director Cesare

Ms. Roach will send exhibitor questions to Ms. Orlowski and ask Mayor Jackson about letter cosigned by the Commission

Mr. Howland will bring pickers and cleanup supplies to February meeting

Ms. Orlowski said she can't make the next two meetings because of the Tuesday dates. She has previous commitments.

There was discussion on interaction with the Town on the Commission's concerns. Mr. Howland explained that he likes to remain in the middle, and said we have to work with the Town. He doesn't feel we have come as far as we should have, but we are further along that we were two years ago.

**Ms. Mattei made a motion to nominate Ms. Solis and Ms. Serrano-Alvarado as Commission Co-Chairs. Ms. Orlowski seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor.**

Adjournment

**Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mattei seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Tobin, Commission Clerk