



TOWN OF HAMDEN

CLEAN & GREEN COMMISSION

Scott D. Jackson
Mayor

“OUR TOWN, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, KEEP HAMDEN CLEAN”

MINUTES: The Clean & Green Commission, Town of Hamden, held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the 3rd floor conference room, Hamden Government Center. The following issues were discussed:

Attending: Lisa Feliconio, Carl Jordan, Agnes Orłowski, Peter Palmieri, Marcia Smith, Mary Solis, Pam Roach – Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator

Absent: Sandra Serrano-Alvarado

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2014. Mr. Palmieri noted that his first name should be Peter. Mr. Palmieri seconded the motion with the noted correction. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Old Business

Ms. Solis addressed the State Street Cemetery and noted that it has been cleaned up. The Commission members advised here that a new Law enacted on October 1, 2014 allows municipalities to now clean up problem areas like this. The clerk will get the information to Ms. Solis.

Ms. Feliconio commented on the recent Brooksvale Park event and that she was disappointed in the turnout. She also noted that they were at the very rear of the event and they needed more volunteers. The Commission discussed how to achieve more exposure for the event. They would also like to do a before and after poster of events that they go in and clean up after to show the public the work they do. They would like to organize a cleanup of Connelly Parkway as there is quite a bit of debris that needs to be removed.

Ms. Roach addressed the CRA and wired compost. They were at one time at the transfer station and Pam noted that the transfer is not equipped to receive cash they are no longer there. Pam is researching how to get money in the budget to continue this offering to the residents. Ms. Solis inquired about Bulk pick up. She noted that it seems to be delayed. Ms. Roach said that there are times when they don't make it to every area every week but that at this time it is on schedule.

Ms. Roach advised the Commission that there is a Litter/Recycling Enforcement Agent who goes through Town making sure areas are clean. If he does come across a situation he notifies Public Works to help.

Ms. Solis inquired about smaller bins for her neighbors who are elderly and have trouble getting the large containers to the street. Ms. Roach asked if they wanted 45 gallon containers or they could keep the containers they have and request back yard pickup. Mr. Jordan noted that the recycle bin doesn't have to be put out every other week if it isn't full. Ms. Roach did note that the smaller bins don't allow for as much steady balancing of the larger bins.

Ms. Smith inquired what the requirements for the bins are. Ms. Roach noted that they are for residential properties. Commercial properties must have their own trash pickups. Ms. Smith inquired if a church is included in the commercial category and Ms. Roach stated yes.

New Business

Curt Leng, Chief Administrative Officer addressed the Commission on the following topics. The Commission started with a series of questions they had for Mr. Leng.

Ms. Solis inquire about the property adjacent to Bed Bath & Beyond. Mr. Leng advised the Commission that there ~~re~~ talks presently going on with an interested party but he could not reveal the name or comment.

Ms. Solis also inquired about beautification projects. Ms. Orlowski and Ms. Solis noted that the median opposite the Police Dept. has significantly high weeds. Mr. Leng stated that they may in fact be plantings but that they grow high, he will check into this.

Ernest Borgnine Park, this is taken care of by two volunteers Ms. Lynn Baumgartner and Ms. DeSorbo. Mr. Leng noted that they also work on other areas around town.

A brief discussion ensued regarding signage at the various parks. There are two kinds of signs that can be used but that they all should be uniform. Mimsie Coleman is presently working on authorization and will be handling these.

Ms. Solis inquired about the Town Center Park Commission doing any more Street Scape's. Before addressing this question he would like to thank the Commission on their clean up after events. The Commission would like to get some before and after photos and Mr. Leng said they could send them to him and he will post them on the Town web site.

Mr. Leng stated that there will be more Street Scape's done. The other three corners around Town Hall will be one project. The work will be from Freedom Park to the Library. At this time the Library roof is being replaced. There will be brick work to match that near Micky's and the Brownstone. Some funding is in place and the FY 2015 budget will have tree planting in it. One of the other areas is at Whitneyville Food Market. Ms. Orlowski inquired about Brraclough Ave and the tree planting that was supposed to be done. Mr. Leng stated that the project is still on going. At this time the town only has one tree group and they are trying to get a second one so the work can move faster. He noted that a Tree Commission is now in place and their second meeting is tomorrow evening October 21, 2014. The subject of residents requesting tree

plantings came up and it was noted that if a tree is planted the resident must commit to taking care of the tree the first year so that it thrives.

Ms. Solis inquired about the Traffic Calming Plan. Mr. Leng noted that there is currently no activity but that a few projects have been completed. A sizable amount of line painting has been done and it seems to be working. Also the speed monitors are being used which is also helping to slow down traffic.

Another situation is the litter and blight around town. Mr. Leng said that if the town had a “litter super vacuum” this would be a combined project with the Blight Officer. He did say that if you see a blight area to let the Blight Officer know where and they will go out and take care of it.

Mr. Leng advised the Commission that 40 panes of glass are being replaced in the bus shelters throughout town. Some are broken, some scratched, some dirty. Ms. Orłowski mentioned a product that helps with graffiti and it is a peel off material placed over the glass. Mr. Leng will look into this.

Ms. Solis wanted to know how best to advertise to fill the vacancies on the Commission. She asked if they could put something on the town Facebook page and Mr. Leng said he would take care of that. There have been notices in the post Chronicle also.

Ms. Smith inquired about the scale at the Transfer station and who will be able to use it. At the moment this is in discussion. Of course it is for the residents but it may be limited and they may issue coupons to the residents. The scale will enable the Town to regulate the trash and recycle in and out.

The question of who cuts the grass along the Canal was raised. The Public Works Parks Division and they try to get to it often as possible but there are a large number of areas in town that they tend to. Can the mulch from the removed trees be used and Mr. Leng noted it is being used around trees around town.

Mr. Leng advised the Commission that they are working on a number of islands, the one at Dixwell and Shepard Ave. and Mather St. and Whitney Ave. Ms. Orłowski mentioned how difficult it is to cross at the Mather St. intersection and Mr. Leng will check on that.

The question of volunteers was raised and Mr. Leng provided the Commission with the name of an individual Petunia who works with Youth Services and is a Volunteer Coordinator there.

Mr. Leng also noted that there are going to be Park enhancements, basketball courts, swings, jungle gyms and such. The parks are Legion Field, Carusone Park, Pine Rock Park and Cesar Field. There will also be replacing of fencing in certain areas.

Mr. Leng posed a question to the Commission “what are their thoughts on a possible smoking ban at the parks.” The Commission members had different thoughts on this, 1) can an area of a park be set aside for the smokers, 2) can the smoking be restricted to only certain areas? One comment was the cigarette butts are all over the parks and one Commissioner noted “the parks are for children why are the adults smoking around them at all?”

A brief discussion ensued with the following being discussed. Mr. Palmieri noted that a number of areas in town need the lines repainting. One area in question is the driveway into Town Hall here at 2750 Dixwell Ave. and Mr. Leng noted that Dixwell Ave. is a state road and the Town would have to send a request to make any changes. It was suggested that maybe the apron leading into the parking lot be painted with white strips/boxes of some kind. Mr. Leng will look into this. Mr. Jordan questioned no sidewalks on Waite Street from Whitney Ave. to Mather Street. This section is owned by the RWA (Regional Water Authority) and this has been discussed many times. The road is basically an emergency egress for Fire and Police and the RWA sees a danger to pedestrians and also if streets were put in it would break down the integrity of the road.

Review and approval of 2015 meeting schedule

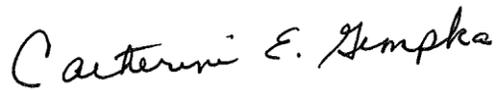
The Commission reviewed the schedule and had no questions or concerns. Mr. Jordan motioned to approve the schedule as presented, seconded by Mr. Palmieri. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Adjournment

At 8:39 p.m. Mr. Jordan motioned to adjourn seconded by Ms. Orłowski. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 17, 2014 in the Third Floor Conference Room, Hamden Government Center.

Recorded by,



Catherine E. Gempka
Substitute Clerk