



Chesterfield Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CCEAC)

July 25, 2024

Summary of Meeting Results

City Hall, 690 Chesterfield Parkway West; Rm 102-103. 6pm

I. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Jeanne Tevlin, Chair.

II. Attendance - taken and recorded by secretary

Present: Kari Johnson, City Liaison, Jeanne Tevlin, Chair (Ward IV), Rob Kilo Vice Chair (Ward IV), Laura Houck Secretary (Ward III), Darcy Capstick, member emeritus (Ward III), Paul McCool (Ward I), Merrell Hansen, Councilwoman Ward IV.

III. Discussion/approval of June meeting summary - led by secretary

Motion to approve: Paul McCool made a motion to approve the minutes. 2nd motion: The motion was seconded by Rob Kilo.

IV. Update/Follow Ups on events, deadlines, and priorities:

- a. What is the theme and article deadline for the next Chesterfield Citizen newsletter?

Kari to provide deadline to CCEAC. Topic ideas related to theme? Citizen Guide Community Organizing theme. Other ideas are: Reducing carbon footprint; climate change; buying recycled means closing the loop; reduce first, then recycle; benefits of bugs and insects.

- b. 8/3/24 Finalize Back to School Bash:

Current status – If volunteering, report to Central Park West Pavilion by the Aquatic Center at 10AM for set up. The event is from 11am-1pm. There are 39 milk jug planters with 3 bags of soil to use in the planters. Six cups of soil will be used per planter. Parks Staff will take pictures. There will be labels to cover the name on the milk jug. The label will include how to water, how to deadhead the dead flowers, how to take care of the plant. There will be stickers on which to write the name of the plant. Volunteers please bring garden gloves and trowels. Home Depot will be donating flowers, but unsure what kind. Kari said Parks staff will make sign thanking Home Depot for their plant donation. Volunteer sign up: Jeanne (lead), Donna, and Paul have signed up. We'll use one of the Pavilion tables so no table top set up necessary. CCEAC handouts can be placed on the stone wall of the Pavilion.

- c. 10/5/24 Truck or Treats:

This is primarily an event for children. If volunteering, please arrive at 9 am on the Central Park parking lot by the playground/aquatic center. The event will run from 10 am -1 pm. There will be quiet time from 10-11(no horn honking on trucks). 11am – 1pm Kids will be allowed to honk horns, etc. Table top display confirmed. Lead? Ideas?

There will be a tabletop game supplied by Kari with Parks Frisbees to win from playing the Kan Jam game. Volunteer sign up TBD this event will be on the August agenda.

a. 10/10 Trunk or Treats:

This is for older adults to learn about what is available to senior citizens who need help/resources. Similar to Senior Sampler Thursday. Candy and community business resources will be passed out from backs of vendor's cars. Volunteer sign up TBD. Table top display confirmed. Lead? Ideas? Table Theme? All TBD – this event will be on the August agenda.

b. 10/19 Fall Festival:

Since there are already 2 other October events, we have chosen not to participate in this event.

c. Central Park Forest Management Plan update – Rob recap City meeting:

The cost for Park's plan was a request of \$100,000 from City Council. TW had hoped to hear in July if we receive the grant. The grant was not going to be approved as the cost is over double what MO Dept of Conservation would approve. Parks will look to other vendors for reduced cost estimate, but at this time the plan is on hold and TBD on honeysuckle removal/invasives removal. PRACAC approved a motion that went to City Council for this topic to start with areas with the highest trail visibility due to significant IBH now choking out trailside pollinators and strong resident interest in removing and reducing invasive species. Estimates would focus and be included as a priority on those trailside areas at a minimum.

d. Central Park mowing/pollinator plants update – Rob recap

Residents complained that someone mowed down all the trailside pollinator plants, especially the common milkweed needed for monarch butterflies. Parks unfortunately mowed well beyond the 'edge' of one width of the mower around the trail, other Parks areas, along Burkhardt, etc. and mowed down nearly all the pollinator plants in several areas. The mowing cut the common milkweed and pollinator plants (thistle, chicory, false indigo, milkweed, queen's lace, etc.) down to the ground. It is highly unlikely that any of the pollinators will grow back during the summer season. Rob met with TW and they are going to address this so that the Parks mowing crew is trained properly and only mow the appropriate width to preserve needed pollinator plants and the flowers/colors along the trail and within Parks.

e. City Tree Manual/Arborist update – Rob and/or Merrell

Rob followed up this week with City Arborist Geoff Wegrzyn again who said it's still with the Planning Department since April. The city tree manual still has the Callery Pear tree and other inappropriate trees as an 'approved/recommended tree' for planting. We are concerned that a Developer could plant these invasive trees because it is 'recommended' in the tree manual. Planning and Public Works has information from Jeff Wegrzyn to make changes to the list. Merrell offered to assist in following up on this. This topic will be carried forward for follow up updates at the August CCEAC meeting.

i. Boy Scout/Eagle Scout native pollinator garden at Parks Building – Darcy:

Darcy Capstick said that Tom McCarthy (previous Parks Director) said that the Parks dept. would take care of the garden. CCEAC did not know about this garden until Tom asked us to help due to staffing issues. We did over three years time. For 3 yrs., pictures were taken with written descriptions on the care we gave as to how to maintain the garden. But because of Covid and the fact that staff was decreased the Parks Dept

has been unable to help maintain the garden. Jeanne Clauson was asked to check on the garden. The garden is being taken care of by someone. We guess it is by the father of the boy scout who started the garden. Kari will ask the Garden Club if they can help maintain the garden at the Parks building. CCEAC wrote again, provided photos with write-ups on how to maintain the garden for Tom who said he'd use it to train new staff. We gave the booklet to Tom to use with his new staff.

j. Ok to distribute factual material from archives dated prior to 2020? CCEAC voice vote. The CCEAC vote was Yes.

k. Recycling (Susan Piazza/Kari) – monitoring volume reports. Thank you Su Ghosh for volunteering to monitor volume reports. Ideas? Su was not present at the meeting so discussion TBD.

l. Recycling Education Program based on PowerPoint by Susan Piazza Interested? Lead? Tabled.

m. Committee banner/sign with CCEAC name for events. Status – Kari?

n. As a committee define actions and responsibilities for those designated as “Lead” on a project

o. Updated CCEAC Roster – Kari

An updated roster was distributed to attendees. Kari will email it out to CCEAC. Darcy had a question about one of the members on whether they remained a current CCEAC member – Kari will check on that. Darcy asked if Madhu Bhagavatula was still a member as she has not been in attendance since mid 2024. Makarand Deo resigned. There was going to be a new woman on the committee but that didn't work out.

p. Suggestions for use of CCEAC brochures on Website. QR code for each.

VII. Announcements/ Comments

a. New CCEAC event t-shirts – if you do not have one yet, contact Kari.

b. Darcy's resources that she emailed to CCEAC – please review in advance of the August 22nd CCEAC meeting – we will project each of those resources on the room screen and those from the City CCEAC website for a CCEAC voice vote on whether to keep or not.

c. 5/29 Invasive Bush Honeysuckle volunteer event was a success.

Rob sent Gary Budoor and Merrell Hansen photos of the progress. Rob showed photos from the event before and after of the native landscape area by the Riparian Trail trailhead on August Hill Drive. Significant removal of honeysuckle and invasives by our CCEAC volunteers (Jeanne Tevlin, Donna Pecherski, Jeanne Clausen, Paul McCool, and Rob Kilo).

d. Reminder: Box of 100 Garden for Wildlife magazines in the mail room at City Hall and take as needed.

e. Reminder: Mitzy Baker bakermitty@rsdmo.org - 5th grade teacher at Chesterfield Elementary expressed interest in our committee working with her classes. We helped Chesterfield Elementary School become a NWF school yard habitat which included Terry Grogan and the boy scouts.

VIII. New Business - Open Discussion for ideas/action items even if not listed on agenda (at least the last 15 minutes)

Bring any ideas and suggestions you have for CCEAC for this open floor time.

It was noted that the Turkey Trot needs volunteers to help the Parks Dept. with the run. This takes place at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex.

How do we address honeysuckle removal in 32 acres of Central Park?

IBH is now nearly everywhere in the park and, unfortunately, out of control in most park areas. Parks chain-sawed some of the very large honeysuckle shrubs – Darcy said those plants poisoned the soil so that is why there were less pollinator plants growing in those areas. The recent rain made lots of mud cover the trail because there are so few pollinator plants left to absorb the rain because of all the honeysuckle. Need to hear from Parks leadership on their current plan of action (what have they worked on year to date, where have they focused on IBH removal, plan for next 90 days?, etc.). Request to have Kari ask for Tony Moore to join our August meeting to discuss plan of action for removing honeysuckle and invasives.

Terry Grogan will have the boy scouts volunteer and come out to help in removal. CCEAC is invited to participate. Please meet at the West Pavilion in Central Park on August 17 at 8:45 am. It was suggested that we go behind the boy scouts and paint Roundup on the stumps after they are done, as well as remove vines, etc. It was suggested that an organization like ours needs the public's help in honeysuckle removal. We need signed release forms from the public. Dress appropriately as there is poison ivy, etc.

IX. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm

a. Next Meeting Thursday August 22, City Hall, Room 102/103. 6 pm.

UPCOMING ACTION DATES 2024:

NOTE: Wear your light green CCEAC t-shirt to these events.

August 3 (Sat) - Back to School Bash; 10am set up. 11-1pm. CCEAC flower planters.

August 17 (Sat) - IBH - honeysuckle removal. Meet at 8:45 am at West Pavilion by the Aquatic Center with Terry Grogan and the boy scouts.

August 22 (Thurs) – CCEAC meeting 6 pm City Hall

September 16 (Mon) - NWF Zoom Mtg 3-4 pm CT; Jeanne Clausen, Rob Kilo back-up

September 26 (Thurs) - CCEAC meeting 6 pm City Hall

October 5 (Sat) - Truck or Treats. CCEAC table top display.

October 10 (Thurs) - Trunk or Treats. CCEAC table top display.

October 19 (Sat) – CCEAC *not participating*. Chesterfield Fall Festival.

October 24 (Thurs) - CCEAC meeting 6 pm City Hall

November 21 (Thurs) - CCEAC meeting 6 pm City Hall

November – Turkey Trot. Kari is asking for volunteers.

December 9 (Mon) - NWF Zoom Mtg 3-4 pm CT; Jeanne Clausen, Rob Kilo back-up

Mid-December - NWF Fiscal Year Report (Kari) to Recertify our Community Wildlife Habitat

December 19 (Thurs) - CCEAC meeting 6 pm City Hall

2025

Deadline for Sixth Mayor's Monarch Pledge 2025

April 2025 (Date TBD) - Invasive Bush Honeysuckle (IBH), vines removal and trash pick-up by Terry Grogan and the Boy Scouts.

Volunteer Hours for July

1. Laura Houck prepared meeting minutes.

2. 7/15- 3 hours: Prep work for planter project: Donna Pecherski, Jeanne Clauson, Jeanne Tevlin, Su Ghosh.

3. Su Ghosh- July article for city newsletter (August issue) was submitted on time (July 5) on the theme Public Engagement Conservation determined by the City.

4. 7/23 Donna Pecherski:

1. Contacted Mr. Christopher Clark, principal of Highcroft Elementary and gave him an envelope titled, "We Recycle" which has the following information:

- Susan Piazza-Republic Services email
- The website for Recycling simplified for Educators
- Chesterfield What and Where to recycle
- Closing the Loop

Mr.Clark is going to give the information to Highcroft's Sustainability Works person.

2. Contacted Kelly Bulanda(School Rep) Ascension School