

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2020

Attendance

Members Present: Sarah Stankorb-Taylor, Patrick Walker, Caroline Ammerman, Chris Babb, Katie Lawrence, Sarah Flem, Dennis Healy

City Staff: Terry Huxel (Staff Representative)

Approval of March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The March 11, 2020 meeting minutes were approved with no changes.

General Update

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there have been no ESC meetings since March 11, 2020. The main purpose of this meeting is to review ESC's planned activities for the year and determine how to proceed given the pandemic-related restrictions.

Recycling Update

Terry Huxel reviewed the recycling statistics for Wyoming. Wyoming received \$25,963.16 from Hamilton County through its recycling incentive program. He also noted that the City picked up 136 tons of debris from the storm in April.

Simply Recycling has suspended its services in Wyoming. Terry believes that the company may end its service here due to lack of interest.

Spring Clean Up – Junk Day

A motion was presented by Dennis Healy to send a recommendation to Wyoming City Council to cancel the city-wide Junk Day, which had been rescheduled from April 13th to September. This motion was seconded and all members voted unanimously to adopt the motion. Therefore, an official letter will be sent from ESC to Council recommending that Junk Day be permanently cancelled. The reasons for canceling Junk Day include:

- 1) The extra cost to the City. This extra pick-up typically costs \$13,000-\$18,000. It is anticipated that these costs are likely to keep increasing in coming years.
- 2) The items that are picked up by Rumpke on Junk Day can be put out on the curb for regular garbage pick-up, as long as special instructions for large items are followed. These instructions are provided on the City's website at <https://wyomingohio.gov/garbage-recycling-yard-waste/garbage/>

- 3) Encouraging the community to send waste to the landfill instead of seeking recycling options is not consistent with the City of Wyoming's Master Plan.

Green Your School Mini-Grants

- Although several applications were submitted during the last school year, no grants were awarded due to the untimely shut-down of the schools from the pandemic.
- This program will start over in the Fall and request that new applications be submitted.

Green Business Awards

- The discussion of the Green Business Award program was tabled until ESC's next meeting, at which time ESC will decide whether or not to have Green Business Awards during the pandemic or wait until 2021. It was generally acknowledged that the pandemic has made it difficult for businesses, particularly restaurants, to maintain sustainability practices due to requirements for disposable food service items (i.e., utensils, dishes, napkins, tablecloths).

Rain Garden Maintenance

- Chris Babb indicated that the rain garden maintenance may occur either before or after the September 12th Workshop with Urban Forestry.

Eblast

- Katie Lawrence will send Debbie information to post online regarding the 2020 One Stop Drop to be held June 20 from 12:00 – 3:00 PM at Academy of World Languages at 2030 Fairfax Avenue.

Stormwater Study Group

- Sarah Stankorb-Taylor provided a brief update on the Stormwater Study Group which is meeting through Zoom.