

Highland Park Environmental Commission
Meeting of September 16, 2009
Minutes

Present: Jonathan Abrahams, Steve Barnes, Joshua Fine, Michael Rosenberg, Kristen Ross, Allan Williams, Councilman Jon Erickson

Absent: Joan Ehrenfeld, Gabor Grunstein

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM in the Environmental Education Center.
2. The minutes of the June 17 and July, meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. No correspondence
4. Site plan review

Overlook @ Highland Park – Pulte Homes
411 River Road
Block 190 Lot 4 &4.1

Comments: Proposed 82 townhouses with 285 parking spaces on a 12.65 acre parcel. This is a revision to the plan approved by the zoning board in January 2007. The EC submitted detailed comments to that plan. It is difficult to compare the revisions since we don't have the old plan to look at side-by-side. It appears that the amount of open space has been reduced and that more trees including a stand of mature pine trees will be cut down. Mike will circulate the Environmental Commission's comments from the original application. Further review of this new application is required.

5. Old Business
 - a. Zoning of Highland Park Meadows - The Master Plan Advisory Review Committee has had one meeting so far. Their second meeting will be held on September 29, and Josh Fine will represent the Environmental Commission. The Upper Meadows parcel is under discussion and is possibly being considered for required affordable housing.
 - b. Environmental Education Center – Karen Swaine and Carol Avelsgaard from the Shade Tree Advisory Committee plan to catalog the various books, documents, and other items in the EEC. The contractor that built the EEC never received the last payment due to unresolved issues. \$60,000-100,000 is still needed for solar panels. \$40,000 has been allocated for a contract to conduct additional site investigations of the soil.

- c. Meadows Project – A habitat restoration event was held on September 13. Approximately 25-30 people from 8 years to 80 years old participated. A lot was accomplished by boy scouts, girl scouts, and the Congregation Ahavas Achim Environmental Committee. John Winter an Eagle Scout candidate plans to construct 5 platform benches that would be located at various locations along the trail. So far this year over 600 volunteer hours have been recorded. 276 plants for the Meadows were picked up at Pinelands Nursery. The cost was \$963.75 and the plants are temporarily stored near the pump house until they are planted.
 - d. Community Wildlife Habitat Program – Mary Denver is still working on obtaining wildlife habitat certification for The Meadows and Irving School. Steve will invite Mary to one of our future meetings.
 - e. EPA Climate Showcase Grant – Highland Park submitted a grant proposal for \$300,000
6. New Business
- a. As part of the regional Riverpalooza Program, another cleanup of the Meadows was completed on August 8.
7. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM. The next meeting will be on Wednesday October 21, 2009 at 8:00 PM.