

ETC Membership Meeting Minutes, May 17, 2018

President Ross Holmes opened the meeting by recognizing the outgoing principal of Glengarry Elementary School, Dr. Ricki Gibbs, who has accepted a position in Memphis. Dr. Gibbs was very complimentary of Glengarry, noting that the students have a “passion and eagerness” that he has not witnessed elsewhere. He thanked ETC for the recognition, and noted that community support is “vital” to the success of the school.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Carol Suzuki reported a balance of \$2,032.24. The total includes \$79 raised by David and Jessical Windrow through the sale of plants. Thank you, David and Jessica!

April Block Party

Ross noted the success of the Block Party on April 28. He asked those present to express their appreciation to local restaurants for their support of the event by patronizing the restaurants, including Monell's, Ken's Sushi, Dairy King, and El Rancho.

Pet Community Center

Donations of supplies in support of the efforts of the Pet Community Center were accepted at the meeting. A popular, low-cost spay and neuter program, per the promotional video shown, is one of many services provided by the PCC.

16th District Update

Councilman Mike Freeman reported on the following:

- raised cross walks have been installed on Old Glenrose and the Whitsett Greenway walking bridge has been re-opened.
- offers from the Corps of Engineers to buy out select homes in flood zones will be forthcoming in the next 4 – 5 months.
- Davidson County operates its own emissions testing facilities, and the Metro Council recently voted to continue operating the facilities until 2022.

Hands On Nashville (HON) Urban Farm Update

Jim Hester, of Metro Parks and Recreation, gave a detailed presentation about the HON Urban Farm site. The history of the space, in short, is that Metro Water Services purchased the property following the 2010 flood and turned it over to Metro Parks and Recreation, which in turn leased it to Hands On Nashville to operate as an urban farm. Leadership and funding sources subsequently changed, making HON unable to continue operations.

Jim complimented HON for having been a “good partner,” and pointed out that maintenance and operation of the Farm required “a lot of resources” which Metro is unable to provide. However, Metro would like to see the space continue to operate as an urban farm, and to that end Jim has “looked hard” to identify an organization that will take responsibility for the farm, to no avail, so far.

When asked how ETC neighbors might become involved in the process for determining how the space is used, Jim was quick to provide his contact information and assure those present that their input is welcome and encouraged. He said the decision about what will happen to the space is open-ended, and the time frame for reaching a decision “depends on [those who live in the area].” Neighbors suggested the following:

- convert the area to green space leaving only the fruit trees
- convert the area to a green space with or without the fruit trees and add (continue) an asphalt loop
- convert the area to a green space with or without the fruit trees and add a path
- clear the area completely
- create an outdoor workout facility
- allow the space to return to its natural state, thus extending the riparian buffer in that area
- add a pavilion

Councilman Freeman and Jim added that a dog park is not an option because poop pollutes. They also said that because the area is a floodway, anything that could be considered an obstruction to flowing water or could catch trash, such as a fence, is prohibited.

Finally, it was suggested that Trevecca Nazarene might be interested in taking

over farm operations; Jim said that if he were provided with the name of a responsible person at Trevecca he would contact him/her. Any organization taking over operations of the farm, Jim added, must be a non-profit that will assume responsibility for both insurance and upkeep of the property.

Jim encouraged neighbors to email or phone him at jim.hester@nashville.gov or 615-862-8400.

ETC By-laws

Two by-law changes had been proposed and made available on-site at the February meeting; they were also available for review on the ETC website. Members were encouraged to review the changes and come to the May membership meeting prepared to cast their ballots.

A vote was taken and the changes were unanimously approved and adopted.

Elections in August

Ross asked for nominations for positions of President-Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- Jessica Windrow was nominated for the position of Treasurer.
- there were no nominations for the positions of President-Elect or Secretary.

As the current President-Elect, Lee Turley will become President in August.

Stop Sign Petition

Dorian and Ross will spearhead a door-to-door campaign to collect signatures. Councilman Freeman said there is no magic number that will make a petition successful; rather, a majority of those canvassed must agree.

Upcoming Events

- ETC Showcase is held on the *third Tuesday of each month* at Ken's Sushi, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Persons interested in performing or learning more should contact Susan Marshall.
- *Tuesday, June 5* – ETC Steering Committee Meeting; 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Ken's Sushi.
- *Tuesday, July 3* – ETC Steering Committee Meeting; 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at Ken's Sushi.

- *August 16* – ETC Membership Meeting; 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Glengarry Elementary School.