

CITY OF OXFORD

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

Report to the City Manager

Council Meeting of: January 15, 2013

Service Department
Originating Department

Account Code #: N/A

David Treleven
Prepared By

Budgeted Amount: N/A

December 19, 2012
Date Prepared

Agenda Title: Environmental Commission Meeting of December 5, 2012

Recommendation: For Review and Consideration

Discussion:

Environmental Commission members present at the Wednesday, December 5, 2012 meeting were: Chair, Mr. Vince Hand; City Council Representative, Ms. Kate Rousmaniere; Planning Commission Representative, Mr. Ted Wong, Mr. Charlie Ford, and Ms. Kelly Church. A quorum was present. Vice-Chair, Mr. Kevin Armitage and Mr. Wright Gwyn had previously notified the Commission that they would be unable to attend the December meeting.

Minutes from the November 7, 2012 Commission meeting was unanimously accepted as presented.

The Planning Commission is discussing revisions of the General Business District zoning regulations. Issues affecting Environmental Commission concerns (as Oxford's Tree Authority) included tree lawn widths or their presence at all, and landscaping requirements for parking lots.

Councilor Rousmaniere informed the Commission that the pedestrian and bicycle plan prepared by Miami University Institute for the Environment and Sustainability graduate student Ms. Anna Dragovich was formally accepted by the City Council.

Commissioners reviewed the storm water ordinance development example provided by the Chagrin River Watershed Partners. Commissioners concluded that their development of a storm water management ordinance for Oxford would be a daunting task, and could yield regulations that might be cumbersome to utilize. The thought that City staff may be more aware of particular issues that a storm water ordinance should address, was raised. Commissioners intend to develop a policy or vision statement regarding storm water management outlining standards and goals for Oxford. To this end, Commissioners asked Staff to assemble existing codified ordinances, manuals, and guidance documents that Oxford currently utilizes in its storm water management. Research by Ms. Kelly Church indicates that references to storm water management are included in several reference documents, including: Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Rainwater and Land Development manual, Butler County's Storm Water Management Plan, Oxford's Codified Ordinances, manuals, and plans (Storm Water Management Design Manual; Storm Water Drainage Plan; Curb, Gutter, Sidewalk & Driveway Apron Specifications Manual;

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Approved By:

Department Head:
City Manager:

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Water System's Master Plan; Water and Sanitary Sewer Improvement Specification Plan; and Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Requirements). Staff has already provided copies of some of these to the Commission's Storm Water Sub-Committee. Staff was instructed to locate copies of the others and review them to determine their applicability and pertinence to storm water management issues. Commissioners shall then conduct a comprehensive review of Oxford's existing storm water management requirements with the intent of identifying contradictions, gaps or short-comings, etc. Information gained from the comprehensive review as well as the policy statement developed by the Commission) will be provided to City Staff (particularly the Community Development and the Service Departments) for review and comment. Suggestions from City Staff will be incorporated into the policy statement and the comprehensive review information of Oxford's existing storm water management practices, which is intended to be provided to City Council for their consideration if a specific storm water management ordinance is necessary and appropriate.

Staff informed the Commissioners that the application for Oxford's re-certification as a Tree City USA had been completed, with the City successfully meeting the requirements for the program. A total of approximately \$63,000 had been spent in 2012 on urban forestry and wood/leaf collection and processing (as part of Oxford's yard waste collection program). Fifty trees had been planted, and 38 dead or declining trees removed, including 12 Ash trees as part of an ODNR reimbursement grant program. Oxford's per capita expenditures for its urban forest came to \$2.95 for 2012. The Commissioners unanimously approved the submittal of the re-certification application to the ODNR.

The Commission adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Environmental Commission is on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building's Second Floor Conference Room. The meeting was postponed by one week from the regularly scheduled meeting on the first Wednesday (January 2, 2013) of the month due to the proximity to the New Year's Day holiday.