

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**October 1, 2009 6 PM**  
**MUNICIPAL CENTER**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Brandy Miller  
David Thorpe  
Clyde Davidson  
Linda Kaplan

Craig Lazarov  
Susan Threlkeld  
Sandra Hayne

**Staff**

Tim Bierdz  
Juanita Bell  
Joe Nunes

**Absent:** Andy Foster, Jimmy Davis, and Tim Sauter

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Joe Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**

The Commission welcomed Ken Adams as a recurring visitor.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The minutes of the September 3, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Commission were unanimously approved.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Joe Nunes:**

Mr. Nunes reported that the recycling totals were down significantly again this month by 5% for the fiscal year in total tons. For the calendar year paper collection is down 9.5% while co-mingled is up 8.5%. The average collection per working day is down from last year.

Mr. Nunes presented a report on Amnesty Day which was Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Participation by residents was down 18% and volume was down 50% due mostly to the poor weather conditions.

Mr. Nunes reported that due to the heavy rains of the previous weeks, we have had some flooding calls but crews have handled the calls very rapidly with few problems considering the amount of rainfall.

Mr. Nunes distributed the new Solid Waste and Recycling Guide that was recently mailed out to all Germantown residents.

Mr. Nunes reported on the Bottle Bill Public Forum which was well attended. Shelby County Commissioner, Steve Mulroy, was the moderator and he announced that he was bringing resolution the Shelby County Commission to support the Bottle Bill as it makes it's way through the legislature. It did pass through the Commission on a 10-2 vote.

Mr. Nunes announced that there was a survey conducted at this Fall's Amnesty Day to determine how resident's found out about Amnesty Day. The majority of residents read the advertisement in the Talk of the Town and the utility bill insert.

**Tim Bierdz:**

Mr. Bierdz announced that the Stormwater Utility Fee was passed through the Board of Mayor and Alderman. The 1<sup>st</sup> reading for ordinance will be in November in order to give notice to the owners of larger non-residential impervious areas inside the Germantown City limits and educate them on the upcoming fee. We were hoping to implement our first stormwater user fee in January 2010 but now it looks like it will be July 1, 2010. Nonresidential areas will be allowed credits to lower the fee. The City will also pay this fee for City property.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Clyde Davidson – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:**

Mr. Davidson shared some concerns with the tall grass along Neshoba blocking the view of traffic. Mr Nunes advised that TVA and MLGW split the cost and responsibility but TVA has cut their budget and no longer cut grass as often as MLGW. This may be the cause of the overgrowth in this area.

**Craig Lazarov – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:**

Mr. Lazarov shared concerns about the sprinklers in the medians of the City that remain on during heavy rains. Mr. Nunes and Mr. Bierdz advised that the sprinklers are set on multiple timers and the cost for sending someone out to disconnect and then reconnect the sprinklers would outweigh the cost of the

running water. The City of Germantown is looking into a sprinkling system that would have a sensor on it that would help in avoiding over watering.

**Linda Kaplan – Think Green:**

Ms. Kaplan shared some experiences that she had recently on a vacation in Ireland. She had studied the recycling systems at the airports, hotels and various other areas and brought back recycled bags and brochures.

Ms. Kaplan also discussed setting up a “Talking about the Bridges Tour”. The executive director has offered to set up a private tour.

Ms. Kaplan announced the Memphis Home Builders Association is presenting the Vesta Home Show in Arlington in a couple of weeks

**Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:**

Ms. Threlkeld announced an upcoming Waterwise Gardening presentation for the gardening club of the junior league office. It will be held on the first Thursday of November.

Mr. Tim Bierdz spoke to the Kiwanis Club about the stormwater user fee.

**David Thorpe – Air Quality:**

Mr. Thorpe reported that the Health Department is still waiting on approval of attainment status from the EPA.

**Brandy Miller – Education:**

Ms. Miller announced an upcoming school presentation at Farmington School on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Tim Bierdz will be joining.

**Sandra Hayne – Neighborhood Preservation Commission Liaison:**

Ms. Hayne announced some upcoming and past events of the Neighborhood Preservation Commission.

September 19<sup>th</sup> – Germantown Day of Caring

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – Neighborhood Summit – The registration form can be found online.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Skelley distributed the sign-up for the Senior Expo.

Commission members were reminded that the Commission Banquet invitations will be arriving soon and everyone needs to R.S.V.P. once they receive the invitations.

Mr. Joe Nunes announced that the Eagle Scouts completed installation of 70 sets of wheels on recycle bins.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

7:00 p.m.