

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Services Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Clyde Davidson

Urania Erskine

Steve Fleischmann

Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan

Laura Meanwell

Paul Mosteller

Alderman John Drinnon

Staff

Bo Mills

Joe Nunes

Leslie Throneberry

Absent: Jimmy Davis, David Thorpe, Anne Wesberry

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Laura Meanwell: Mrs. Meanwell is a 9 year resident of Germantown. She has previously served on the Library Commission and the Education Commission. She started a recycling program at an elementary school.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

SUSAN THRELKELD HONORARIUM:

An envelope was passed around to collect money for an honorarium for Susan Threlkeld's many years of service to the Environmental Commission. We will purchase gardening related books for the Germantown Community Library in her honor. We will also purchase another token of our appreciation for her. She will be invited to our March Environmental Commission meeting so that they can be presented to her.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes brought several of the Germantown Recycles cards (See Attachment A) that were mailed to the residents to make sure that everyone had received them.

Mr. Nunes mentioned that our trash collection vendor had a work stoppage last week that impacted Germantown pretty significantly. The pickups started back this past Thursday. We are experiencing an increase in the number of service misses. He will be having a meeting next week with the vendor to discuss the services. Yard debris pickup is behind.

Mr. Nunes passed around the recycling graph (see Attachment B). We have had two months of decline in volume. This will also be discussed with the vendor.

The City does track all trash service misses. During the work stoppage, we experienced a big increase in misses.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills received a notice from MLGW recently that said they want to install 60,000 smart meters in the area. He spoke to Jerry Collins, Director of MLGW, and he confirmed that they will be putting some of them in Germantown. This is an opportunity to meter your electric and gas usage and be rewarded for usage off peak hours. The average savings will be 5.6% on electric alone. Mr. Mills volunteered for the Commission members to receive these meters. He also volunteered several of the City facilities. Installation is expected around October or November of 2013. Linda Kaplan and Joe Nunes both commented that they already have smart meters at their homes.

Wolf River Boulevard extension should be opened by July. The next phase is to put the accompanying greenway in. Mr. Mills has been sitting in on the meetings for the project and is very impressed with the design. There are three planned education stations and two trailheads with restrooms and parking.

Bobby Lanier Farm Park sewer and roadway improvement projects will be bid soon. Money was allocated in the capital budget this year to make improvements to some of the buildings and around the facility. An access road will be built off of Stout Rd. This will improve the site with a defined entrance.

The westbound curb lane on Poplar Ave at Exeter is supposed to be paved tomorrow (Feb 8, 2013).

Bethany German resigned as the Manager of the Animal Shelter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster was doing research on charging lithium ion batteries like what is used in cell phones, airplanes and battery operated cars. Charging the battery in too warm of an environment could cause the battery to overheat and eventually fail. The batteries on the 787 aircraft seemed to overheat, fail and burn up.

Last year, Mr. Foster discussed how data is collected for temperatures worldwide. The data is collected in whole numbers. An internal email from the United Nation's International Panel on Climate Change, got leaked to the press. There is a possibility that the data has been overstated for about 20 years. We don't know how reliable the data is.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan thanked Steve Fleischmann, Jimmy Davis and Susan Threlkeld for setting up and working the Environmental Commission booth at the Eco Expo. There was a very good turn-out for the expo.

Mrs. Kaplan brought a reusable envelope to show.

Mrs. Kaplan has been invited to attend the International Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Refuse, Recycling, Air Pollution and Energy Conservation May 13-15, 2013 in Shanghai, China.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine attended the Eco Expo. She had nothing to report this month.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller had nothing to report.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann complimented Mr. Nunes on the very good job on the recycling card. Paul Mosteller asked Mr. Mills about the possibility of the City of Germantown collecting hazardous waste once a quarter. Mr. Mills stated that we couldn't do that because of the state regulations and cost. The County has a collection facility at Shelby Farms but it has very limited hours. Mr. Mills suggested that we could lobby to get increased hours at the facility. The facility has been open for 4 or 5 years and they have never had an increase in funding.

Mr. Fleischmann asked if we will collect Styrofoam with our recycling collections. Mr. Mills asked if we could accept Styrofoam at Amnesty Dumpster Day. Joe Nunes will look into it. The Cyber Yard in Memphis and the UPS store in Germantown will accept used Styrofoam.

Clyde Davidson: Mr. Davidson had nothing to report.

Mr. Skelley: Frank Road dump is having break outs. Mr. Skelley was called to try to help solve this problem. Break outs are when gasses are coming out of the ground. They are evaluating the solution.

Alderman Drinnon: Alderman Drinnon stated that he was impressed with the Environmental Commission meetings.

Old Business:

New Business: Arbor Day is Friday, March 1 at 9:00 in the parking lot across from Fire Station #3 on Farmington. We will need volunteers if anyone would like to help.

Mulch Day is Saturday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m. at the Public Services Complex. Volunteers are not needed for this event.

February's *Talk of the Town* has a notice about Going Green with utility billing. We offer automatic draft and e-billing.

The new Vehicle Maintenance Shop held its Groundbreaking Ceremony last week. The contractor has a 270-day contract to build the new facility. It should be open around November 1. The building will have several green initiatives including natural lighting and used oil recycling for heat processes.

The public oil recycling container located at the Public Services Complex gets filled up about once a month.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

GERMANTOWN

RECYCLE PROGRAM

What can go in the cart?

Home

PAPER

- Mail
- Newspapers
- Magazines

PLASTIC BOTTLES

- Rinsed plastic bottles and containers
- NEW! Plastic recycle numbers 1 through 7

FOOD BOXES

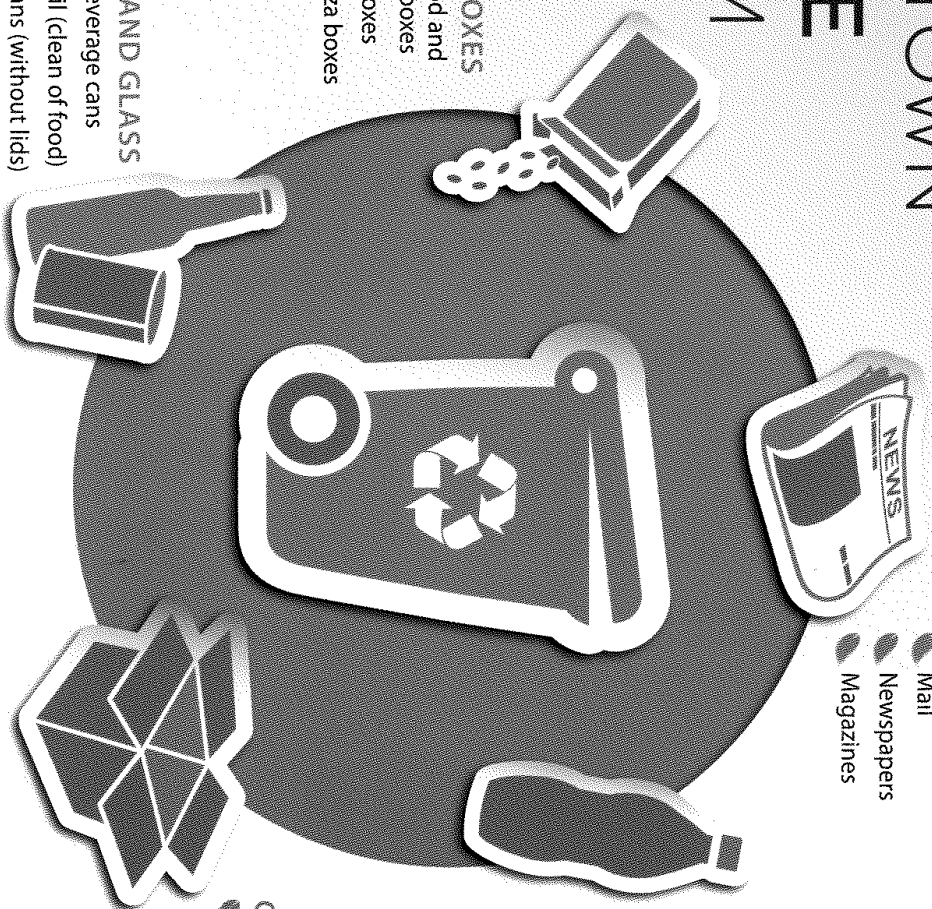
- Dry food and cereal boxes
- Shoe boxes
- NO pizza boxes

ALUMINUM AND GLASS

- Aluminum beverage cans
- Aluminum foil (clean of food)
- Metal food cans (without lids)
- Glass containers

CARDBOARD

- Corrugated cardboard boxes, flattened and cut into pieces to fit in cart



City of Germantown, Tennessee
1930 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138

GERMANTOWN RECYCLES

Now it's easier than ever to recycle. Our recycle trucks are fully automated with an arm that lifts your cart and collects all recyclable materials—so you don't have to sort your items.

RECYCLING REMINDERS

To keep our recycle program running smoothly, here are a few reminders:

- **Selection.** Only place approved items in your free, city-issued 35-gallon recycle roll cart. See the reverse of this card for details.
- **Load.** Do not overfill the cart. Garming too many items into the cart can block the flow and can damage or destroy the cart while the automated truck empties it. This problem happens frequently when cardboard is folded, so please cut cardboard into pieces that easily fit in the cart.
- **Location.** Place your cart at least three feet away from any obstructions (such as mailboxes, utility poles and trash bins) that could block the truck.
- **Orientation.** Position the cart so that its handle and wheels face away from the street.

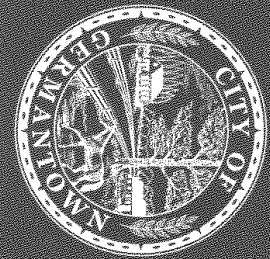
NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS

The Germantown recycle program does not collect the following items:

- Plastic shopping bags and plastic trash bags
- Foam egg cartons
- Pizza boxes and other food-soiled containers
- Styrofoam

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Germantown Neighborhood Services team at
neighborhoodservices@germantown-tn.gov or 901-757-7263.



www.germantown-tn.gov

PRST, STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Memphis, TN
Permit No. 4622

Attachment B

FY 12 - FY 13 Recycle Volume Comparison

