

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 1, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Services Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Clyde Davidson

Jimmy Davis

Steve Fleischmann

Linda Kaplan

Laura Meanwell

Paul Mosteller

Staff

Bo Mills

Joe Nunes

Leslie Throneberry

Guest: Susan Threlkeld

Absent: Alderman John Drinnon, Urania Erskine, Andy Foster, David Thorpe & Anne Wesberry

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Former Environmental Commission member, Susan Threlkeld, attended the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the June meeting were approved. There was no meeting held in July due to the holiday.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reported that for the end of FY 13 yard debris collection was up by 3%, household waste was down by 1.5% and recycling was down by 1.4% from FY 12. Overall collection numbers for FY 12 and FY 13 were close. Mr. Mosteller noted that the recycling stays consistent from year to year and he would like to know what we can do to get more people involved. Mr. Nunes reported that 83% of the households have recycle carts and 2/3 of them make it to the curb each week. Mrs. Meanwell suggests that we campaign the neighborhoods to encourage recycling.

Mr. Nunes said that Neighborhood Services is working on a disaster debris collection plan in the event of a disaster in Germantown. Their goal is to have this program in place by October 2013.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills reported that two weeks ago we had a surprise visit from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Division of Water Supply for our Sanitary Survey. We have been notified that we scored a 99 out of a possible 100. Not only is our system well-maintained, but our reports are also in order.

Mr. Mills also informed the commission that they will be receiving an official invitation to the Wolf River Boulevard Grand Opening tentatively scheduled for August 16, 2013. This has been an environmental project so the Environmental Commission will be there for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Mills nominated this project for an award at the Tennessee Chapter of the American Public Works Association. He supplied copies of the award application to the committee members. The Greenway that accompanies this area is still in the design phase. The construction will take approximately one year to 18 months to complete.

Mr. Skelley mentioned he noticed an increase in trucks that spray for mosquito. Mr. Mills said that we are 11.3" above normal for rainfall this year which has increased the number of mosquito.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Clyde Davidson: Mr. Davidson had nothing to report.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan had nothing to report.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller had nothing to report.

Laura Meanwell: Mrs. Meanwell reported that two of the three elementary schools have new principals this year. Also, she will be trying to tie recycling education into the Science curriculum for the 4th grade students this year.

Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis shared an article about retiring nuclear power plants. A nuclear power plant's life expectancy is approximately 40 years. There are currently 31 that have been retired and are being decommissioned. They are allowed 60 years to decommission.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann attended the Memphis & Shelby County Sustainability Summit at the Memphis Botanical Gardens. One of the topics was the dramatic decrease in the cost of solar panels. Another topic that was discussed is that lighting is about 38% of our energy usage. Dr. Davis asked whether Germantown code allows for solar panels on roofs. Mr. Nunes said that it is acceptable.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Amnesty Dumpster Day is Saturday, September 21, 2013. A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.