

# Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 4, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.  
Public Services Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

## MINUTES

### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Clyde Davidson  
Urania Erskine

Linda Kaplan  
Paul Mosteller  
Susan Threlkeld

### Staff

Bo Mills

Absent: Jimmy Davis, Steve Fleischmann, Andy Foster, Laura Meanwell, Alderman John Drinnon, Joe Nunes and Leslie Acerra

### 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 GUESTS:

Carlos Altuzar, Scout Master for Troop 331, and scout, Liam Altuzar, attended the meeting. Liam is working on receiving his Community merit badge which is one of only two merit badges he has left before acquiring his Eagle Scout.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills shared that on Friday, August 15, 2014, most of the City experienced low water pressure. This was the result of an MLGW power outage behind our Southern Avenue water treatment plant. The main feed severed and our generator did start; however, when the main feed surged, a wire broke in the generator so it did not function. This happened around 6:00 a.m. while demand was high with residents showering and irrigation systems turning on. Staff was on site and immediately got the Johnson Road plant running at full capacity to keep water in the lines. Air never got in the mains but water pressure was lost because the water wasn't being pushed up into the tank. Although backup power was in place, it did not initiate. Mr. Mills feels the City needs another elevated tank. Most cities have several elevated tanks to keep the pressure equalized. The City has two tanks, one 500,000 gallon and one 75,000 gallon. The City's Master Plan for the past 25 years has been to install another elevated tank around the Johnson Road water treatment plant. Residents do not want a tower overlooking their properties. If the City had another tower, the water pressure could have been maintained. Generator repairs were made by 9:00 a.m. MLGW finished making their repairs shortly thereafter. Soon pressures were restored.

Mr. Mills reminded the commission members that the Germantown Festival is Saturday and Sunday. The Running of the Weenies is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Saturday. This is the Animal Shelter's biggest fundraiser. Our Animal Shelter Manager, Alina Lesniak, also keeps the shelter's Facebook page up to date.

Mr. Mills shared that the Kroger on Farmington is about to be closed for renovations. The store will be enlarged by about 30%. The renovation will include adding a drive-thru pharmacy and more floor space. Construction is expected to take approximately 18 months. Once renovations are complete, the Exeter location will be closed permanently.

Mr. Skelley asked Mr. Mills about the construction that is currently going on at the Animal Shelter. Mr. Mills explained that 630 square feet are being added to the west side of the shelter for an intake area. He also explained that next year additional renovations will be made to the 30+ year old building.

Mr. Skelley also asked whether the new Fleet Services building is complete. Mr. Mills shared that although there are a few punch list items left to be completed, the Fleet Services Department is in the process of moving things in. Environmental Commission member, Laura Meanwell, is the new part-time Administrative Assistant for the department. Public Works will gain use of the area being vacated by Fleet Services for the sign shop, winter storage and maintenance.

Mr. Mills shared that the first pre-construction meeting for the aeration tower renovation will be held next week. Construction will begin on October 15.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller pointed out that since water sales have decreased over the last few years, a rate increase was necessary. However, the sales have now increased since the rate increase went into effect. It seems the rate increase had an opposite effect as to what would be expected. He is curious as to why.

Mr. Mosteller has noticed that over-sprayed lawn fertilizer ends up on the sidewalks and in the streets and ends up being washed into the storm water system when it rains. He questioned whether the City has to filter this water. Mr. Mills explained the City has tried to get the lawn companies to manage the overspray better. The nitrogen from the fertilizer helps the algae grow. This may be why so many algae are in the storm water drainage ditches. Tim Bierdz, Stormwater Engineer, does monitor and take samples annually from any 30" pipe or greater. The City is in compliance with EPA's regulations. Mr. Mosteller questions whether the Board of Mayor and Aldermen might want to require companies to sweep up this overspray. Mr. Mills suggests that the City might put the regulation in the permit because the permit is part of the City ordinances. With it being in the ordinances, the City code enforcement officers could write citations to the offending companies.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan will be a part of the "Peoples Climate March" on September 21 in New York City. Electric vehicles will be included. United Nations will be meeting during this time.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared several items:

- She recently went to Anchorage, Alaska and visited Potters Marsh. They had biodegradable plastic pet waste bags.
- She also went to the Anchorage Museum where they heard about "up-cycling" which is reusing a product, not just recycling.
- A percent of the world's population already eats insect protein. For more information, go to National Public Radio's website ([www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)) and search "cricket flour".
- Mrs. Threlkeld also reported that she read in the *Talk of the Town* about the stem pests that are threatening the crepe myrtles. This is worth watching and can be treated.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine asked about dropping expired medications at Amnesty Dumpster Day. Mr. Mills stated that the City of Germantown Police Department does participate in the National Take Back Initiative twice a year. He will get the dates and locations to the commission members.

Mrs. Erskine was thankful for rulers for the teachers' day at the Farm Park. Attendance was poor so they will be taking the goody bags to the teachers.

Mr. Skelley noted that the garden at the Farm Park was looking good. Mrs. Erskine is looking forward to the sewer line work being done. Mr. Mills confirmed that it will be soon.

Liam Altuzar: Mr. Altuzar has environmental concerns regarding paper, plastic, metal and aluminum recycling in each classroom and in the cafeteria.

OLD BUSINESS:

The sign-up sheet for Amnesty Dumpster Day was reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.