

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Clyde Davidson

Urania Erskine

Steve Fleischmann

Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan

Laura Meanwell

Paul Mosteller

Staff

Joe Nunes

Leslie Acerra

Absent: Jimmy Davis, Bo Mills, Susan Threlkeld and Alderman John Drinnon

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reported that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen recently approved the assignment of the sanitation contract. The new sanitation contractor, Inland Waste Solutions, started Monday. As anticipated, they have experienced some collection issues. For example, there were 158 misses today. Considering there are 13,300 households that are collected weekly, the percentage of missed collection is low. It was believed that many of the Republic employees would apply at Inland; however, that was not the case. Mr. Nunes met with them on Saturday morning for a lengthy orientation on Germantown's expectations and collection guidelines and on Inland's safety procedures. The agreement between Republic and Inland was an asset swap. Republic sold Germantown's contract, trucks and equipment to Inland and Inland sold some Ohio operations, trucks and equipment to Republic.

On October 4, Rock-Tenn notified the City that it was closing and they closed on October 8, so we have a new recycling contractor now also. ReCommunity is our new recycling contractor. We do not have volume reports from Rock-Tenn for the week of service, but ReCommunity did send volume reports for the partial month of pickup. Currently, we are not paying for recycling; however, the recycling market is down right now. The City of Memphis is paying to dispose of recycling. The thought is that China's economy is slow and that is where most of the recycled material goes for reprocessing.

Mr. Nunes reported in October that Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) would be holding a public hearing on their Integrated Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan. He has not had a chance to read the entire plan but he will defer to next month. The plan is on TDEC's website if anyone would like to read it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine shared multiple articles about the City of Memphis considering a “pay-as-you-throw” garbage program that would charge customers varying fees based on their volume of waste. Mr. Nunes agrees that the pay-as-you-throw program is the fairest approach because the person that generates the most trash pays the most. Mrs. Erskine feels that many people in Germantown would prefer our cart sizes to have been switched, meaning 95 gallon recycle carts and 35 gallon household waste carts. Mr. Nunes shared that Memphis and Collierville have both gone to 95 gallon recycle carts. This gives the contractor the ability to swap out equipment.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller and Mrs. Threlkeld worked a booth at the Neighborhood Summit. Mr. Mosteller said this was a good meeting but he felt they “were preaching to the choir”. Many attending the meeting asked for larger recycle carts. Guests liked the jar opener giveaways because they have the recycling information on them. Mr. Mosteller feels the schools would be a better audience for our recycling efforts especially if our giveaways could be something like the rulers made from recycled materials. Mr. Mosteller also thinks we should reach out to the neighborhood associations for recycling efforts. Mr. Nunes has a Neighborhood Coordinator in his department who knows about many of the neighborhood association meetings. Mrs. Erskine suggested that the commission make a formal recommendation to the City to get larger recycling carts.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Commission Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on November 13, 2014 at the Great Hall and Conference Center. RSVP’s have been turned it to Michele Betty in Administration.

Mrs. Threlkeld has again volunteered to host December’s Environmental Commission meeting/Holiday party at her home. This event is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on December 4, 2014. Each of the commission members will contact Ms. Acerra as to what they will be bringing for the potluck dinner and she will be in touch with Mrs. Threlkeld.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission applications are due to the City Clerk, Dotty Johnson, by November 28, 2014. Please complete the application in its entirety.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.