

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.
Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Steve Fleischmann

Andy Foster
Linda Kaplan
Paul Mosteller
Susan Threlkeld

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Leslie Acerra

Absent: Clyde Davidson, Laura Meanwell, Alderman John Drinnon

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reported that household volume is up 9%, yard waste is up 22% and recycling is up 6.5% in FY15 as compared to the same time frame for FY14.

Mr. Nunes also reported that there was a 7% decrease in Amnesty Day participation this year. Southern Avenue's number of visitors was equal to last year; however, Johnson Road's number of visitors was down. The volume collected was down 10%, but recycling was up 10%. 7.43 tons of electronics were collected. Participants were surveyed about Amnesty Day. 100% of the participants that responded were "very satisfied". 60% heard about Amnesty Day from the Talk of the Town. The City website and neighborhood communication were the other two highest means of notification. Of the survey responses, 37% of people had construction debris, 80% of the Johnson Road visitors had documents to shred and 50% had electronics. Mr. Nunes thanked the commission members for volunteering for the event. Mr. Mosteller asked if flyers containing information regarding Amnesty Day details and Memphis/Shelby County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility could be sent with the utility bills prior to the events being held.

Mr. Nunes shared that Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) will be holding a public hearing to present a draft of the Integrated Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan on Monday, October 27, 2014 from 1:30-2:15 p.m. at the Benjamin Hooks Central Library. Public comments will be heard from 2:30-3:30. Two weeks prior to the event, a draft of the plan will be available on TDEC's website.

Mr. Nunes explained that on October 13, 2014, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will be asked to approve a change in the solid waste contractor. Republic is requesting to sell the Germantown contract to Inland Waste, which is a contractor for the City of Memphis. Inland will be purchasing all of Republic's equipment.

Republic crews will be eligible for employment with Inland. FY15 and FY16 are remaining on the existing contract. The contract includes a clause that allows an additional five years, if desired by the City of Germantown.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills reported that the Animal Shelter expansion/renovation and the Southern Avenue Water Treatment Plant aeration towers refurbishment projects are both under way.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan shared that over 400,000 people participated in the Peoples Climate March in New York City last month. The event included two minutes of silence in respect for people who lost their lives and been impacted by the air they breathe. There were over 2,600 events throughout the world from more than 150 countries noting the same thing, climate change and public awareness.

Mrs. Kaplan also shared that the Whole Foods at Poplar and Mendenhall has charging stations for electric cars.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine read about a city in California that is going to start fining people that don't recycle.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster shared that the Department of Energy's website has information about the history of electric cars and about personal energy used compared to burritos. According to the website, Tennessee uses more energy per capita than New York.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Mosteller asked for follow up information regarding over application/overspreading of fertilizers. Mr. Mills explained that we do currently put information in the *Talk of the Town* explaining that homeowners and/or fertilizer applicators are to sweep the fertilizer over application back into the grass. Also, each fertilizer applicator has to be trained and certified as to how to properly administer fertilizers into lawns and the proper steps for sweeping over application back into lawns. Mr. Mills explained that is difficult for the City to police fertilizer applicators and homeowners should play an active role in proper monitoring for over application. Mr. Mosteller would like to know what the commission could do get the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to implement something to make this more effective. Mr. Mills feels this mostly a public education opportunity. The City and the commission members can spread the word that fertilizer over application gets into the City's stormwater system and the nitrogen in the fertilizer helps algae grow. Mr. Mosteller would like the City to take the lead and be more proactive in educating the residents. Mr. Mills will research any flyers that other communities have developed that the City might be able to use. He also suggested that Code Compliance may be able to help by giving out information to homeowners who over application.

Ms. Acerra emailed the information regarding the drug take back program to the commission members after the last meeting. The City of Germantown Police Department takes part in the National Take Back Initiative twice a year. The most recent event was held on September 27, 2014 at the Kroger located at 2130 Exeter Road.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Neighborhood Summit is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on October 28, 2014 at the Great Hall and Conference Center. The commission has elected to have a booth at the event. Jason Manuel, Superintendent with Germantown Municipal School District will be the keynote speaker. Volunteers will be needed from 5:00 p.m. until approximately 8:00 p.m.

The Senior Expo is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on November 6, 2014. The commission has decided not to have a booth at the event.

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. Invitations were sent on September 29, 2014. RSVPs are due back to Ms. Acerra by November 6, 2014.

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. Details will be discussed at November's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.