

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2015 – 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
Scott Schoefnacker
Jayu Wagh
Alderman Dave Klevan

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Leslie Acerra

Absent: Paul Mosteller and Susan Threlkeld

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 ALDERMAN KLEVAN:

The commission welcomed its new alderman liaison, Dave Klevan. Alderman Klevan took office in January. He has been a Germantown resident since 1984 and has been volunteering on city commissions since 1992, which include Financial Advisory Commission and Planning Commission. He also shared a brief bit of personal information.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reported improvements in the sanitation service based on the decreasing number of service requests. Household service requests were down 35% from November to December and 55% from December to January. Yard debris service requests were down 67% from December to January. The goal is to have less than 100 service requests per month. There were 119 service requests in January.

Recycling volume is up by 6% year to date. Household trash volume has been declining until this month; yet our year to date volume for household trash is up approximately 3%.

Mr. Nunes maintains performance measures that he reports to the Board of Mayor and Alderman. One of these is for pounds of trash collected per household. This year's target is 460 pounds per household. This quarter, we had 421 pounds per household, which is ahead of target for the year. Another performance measure is for pounds of recycling collected per household. This year's target is 110 pounds per household per quarter. We had 98 pounds per household per quarter.

Recycling participation is good in Germantown; however, Mr. Nunes doesn't feel we are capturing all of the volume. He is working with Houston High School's new tv department to create a video to show acceptable

contents and proper cart placement on the curb. Mr. Nunes shared that Kristi Ransom, the city's new Marketing Communication Coordinator, is working on our New Resident packets which will include information on household waste, recycling and yard waste, among other things.

Mr. Nunes also shared that the recycling education program in the schools needs to be revamped. When children recycle, parents tend to recycle also.

As discussed before, the State of Tennessee is in the process of updating the Integrated Solid Waste Materials Plan. The final plan should be presented later this spring. It is too early to know what the impact will be on the municipalities.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills shared that the Germantown Beautification Commission is hosting a class on environmentally conscious ways to manage landscaping including using native plants which will be held at the Pickering Center this Saturday, February 7. Strawberry Plains Audubon Center will be teaching the class. There is a \$25 fee and pre-registration is required.

Mr. Mills also shared that the second annual Business & Industry Summit will be held on February 18 at The Great Hall and Conference Center. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and tickets are \$50 at the door. Local development and economic conditions in Germantown will be discussed. Alderman Klevan explained that this summit is a collaboration between the City of Germantown and the Germantown Chamber of Commerce. Alderman Klevan was involved in the forming of a chamber alliance with other area suburban chambers a few years ago. The alliance was created to help the municipalities get some attention and respect from the City of Memphis and the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and to get economic development money from them for the suburban chambers. The suburban chambers then work with the city.

Mr. Mills reported that a 30-person long-range strategic planning steering committee began meeting to revise the Germantown Vision 2020 plan. He encouraged the commission members to be aware and participate if available.

Mr. Mills shared an invitation that was sent to the Environmental Commission members from the Lions Club. Former mayor, Sharon Goldsworthy, has been chosen as the Citizen of the Year for the Germantown Lion's Club. They are going to honor her on Monday, March 2, at 6:00 p.m. at The Great Hall and Conference Center. Cost is \$15. Alderman Klevan shared that this is a fun, laid back event. It is a great recognition of a community servant who has done a lot for Germantown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann shared information on the pay-as-you-throw sanitation program that is used in Seattle, WA. Recycling containers have 96 gallon capacity and have no monthly service fee. Additional recycling carts are also available for no monthly service fee. Food and yard waste pickup costs range between \$5.15 and \$9.90 monthly. Garbage pickup costs range from \$27.20 to \$93.15 monthly. Sanitation collection costs could be as much as \$103.00 per month, without including any costs for items that will not fit in the containers.

Scott Schoefnacker: Mr. Schoefnacker will be sharing various aspects of ground water and water in general. There is a Mid South Regional Greenprint which is a plan for region. One aspect was environmental issues. Their website has a map that, by using the web map tools, includes things like social aspects, schools, parks, EPA data, underground storage tanks and recharge zones for the Memphis

aquifer. Ground water usage in Shelby County averages 220 million gallons per day and Tennessee averages 450 million gallons per day. Sustainability is one of the concerns. Recharge zones are monitored also. Mr. Mills added that the City of Germantown contributes funds annually to help fund their research. We get quarterly reports on their activities. They help us watch our aquifer. We also participate with the U.S. Geological Survey which monitors the aquifer levels. The City of Germantown is very conscious of our aquifer. Water is our most valuable natural resource.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster reported that FedEx hit the milestone of \$1 billion in fuel savings over the last 7-year period. A large portion of the savings came from setting initiatives to save gas by warming planes for shorter periods of time prior to take off. FedEx is continuing to look for ways to save more money.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh shared some environmental tips that included taking shorter showers; rethinking desktop technology by investing in energy efficient laptops; reproducing aluminum cans from recycled cans saves 95% of the energy that producing aluminum cans from new materials uses; buying locally grown produce and skipping frozen foods which use more energy to produce; using fluorescent light bulbs; composting leaves and grass; and using used tea leaves for fertilizer in household plants to reduce trash and save money on fertilizer.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan feels blessed to have deer frequent her property; however, she is concerned for drivers and pedestrians in her area since she is near a school. If a driver was to swerve to avoid hitting a deer as it crosses the road to get to the large wooded property across the street from her house, she is afraid that a person or a deer will get hit by a vehicle. She would like to have Deer Crossing signs installed along Neshoba. Mr. Mills explained that although there have been numerous requests in the past for these signs, our residential speed limits are set at 35 MPH which is below the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's threshold of 45 MPH for the signage. We had thirty deer fatalities last year throughout the city. Mr. Schoefnacker suggested plotting the locations where deer have been hit on the GIS and consider the high volume locations as possible locations for these signs.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine questioned how we will be affected with International Paper closing its local recycling facility. Mr. Nunes explained that it will not affect us; however, it has impacted some of the school recycling programs. The world-wide market for recycling is down. Mr. Nunes reported that we are no longer being paid for our recyclable materials.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Skelley shared that we will be donating books to the library in Mr. Clyde Davidson's honor for his years of service to the Environmental Commission. Ms. Acerra has contacted the library to order these books. She will also invite Mr. Davidson to the March meeting for the commission to honor him in person.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mulch Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 14 at the Public Works Complex. Yard debris has been broken down into mulch and is being offered free to residents. Mr. Skelley and Mr. Mills encouraged members to share this information with Germantown residents.

Go Green in '15 sample cards were given to the members. The idea is to pass these out at events like Amnesty Day, Mulch Day, etc. or possibly include with the water bills. Mr. Skelley asked members to review cards and make suggestions. Kristi Ransom will review these also. Mr. Foster suggests making these into magnets to hand out. Recycling info could also be included on magnets. Mr. Nunes is checking into the costs of making stickers to put on the recycle containers as to what is recyclable. Mrs. Wagh would like to

see a website created or a link on the city's website to show how the Environmental Commission is helping the city. Mr. Mills explained that the City does have a website and we could put this information on it. Our agendas and minutes are posted monthly.

Amnesty Dumpster Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18. Ms. Acerra will have volunteer sign-up sheets at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.