

# Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 6, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.  
Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

## MINUTES

### Present

Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Steve Fleischmann  
Andy Foster  
Linda Kaplan

Paul Mosteller  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh  
Alderman Dave Klevan

### Staff

Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Leslie Acerra

Absent: Scott Schoefnacker and Chairman Joe Skelley

### CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Mills called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and turned it over to Vice-Chairman Andy Foster.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Sanitation volume reports were not yet available for July.

Neighborhood Services held a Focus Group meeting recently in which a couple of the commission members participated. Mr. Nunes thanked them for serving. The group mainly expressed that their expectations are to have the household trash, recycling and yard waste picked up each week on the scheduled day. Neighborhood Services is currently preparing a Request for Price for the next collection contract.

Mr. Foster expressed his appreciation for Johnny Robinson's excellent customer service in getting a neighbor's damaged trash can picked up.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills shared that Chairman Skelley is absent tonight because he is attending his father-in-law's funeral. A sympathy card was signed by those at the meeting. Former alderman, John Drinnon, also passed away and the funeral will be held Saturday afternoon.

The Germantown Forward 2030 steering committee is seeking the Commission's help on various task forces that will begin meeting soon. Anyone interested may submit an application to the Administration office at City Hall. Pam Beasley, Tim Bierdz, Reynold Douglas and Mr. Mills will all be involved in the Natural Resources task force. Task Force kickoff will be held on August 31 at 6:00 p.m. at the Great Hall and Conference Center.

Mr. Foster asked Mr. Mills about repairing small vent holes in the asphalt at the intersection of Howard and Eastern that were made by MLGW. Mr. Mills will have a crew make these repairs.

Mr. Mosteller is concerned with the delayed pace of the MLGW electric upgrade process in the Honey Tree/Beaverwood area. Mr. Mills will discuss this with MLGW officials at their next quarterly meeting.

Alderman Klevan: Germantown has a lot of great things happening and is continuing to grow with the upcoming opening of the renovated Kroger, the additions of Sprouts, Whole Foods, Saddle Creek renovation/expansion and more. Schools are starting back. We have a great budget for FY 16. A lot of new projects are going on in the city. Wolf River Blvd is being repaired now and, according to Mr. Nunes, it is ahead of schedule.

Alderman Klevan thanked everyone for their contributions to the Mid South Regional Greenprint Plan. The Environmental Commission's concern encouraged others to read the lengthy document in full. Both of the Commission's suggested changes were included in the Resolution. Ms. Acerra will forward the revised document to the Commission via email.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Urania Erskine: Water issues are growing. The EPA has given itself increased power in regard to water usage, especially ground water. Several water related articles were shared: economic development due to Memphis' excellent water; tips for water conservation; groundwater rights in the western United States; and raising crops with fracking water.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld shared an article from Orange County, CA on the purification of sewer water.

Battery-operated lawn equipment should be stored with the battery fully charged to extend the lifespan.

Recently, Mrs. Threlkeld witnessed and photographed the sanitation vendor putting her recycling in the same truck with her yard waste. She contacted neighborhood services. Mr. Nunes has been in contact with the vendor about this incident. The City of Germantown is currently paying \$32/ton at the landfill and \$22/ton for recycling.

Jayu Wagh: Mrs. Wagh has been using eco-friendly products for many years. Some of these products include: banana leaves instead of plates because they are easy to clean, biodegradable, and after used they could be fed to the cattle; natural loofah from trees and vines is used for cleaning; coconut milk is not only used for drinking but also for shampooing hair; banana or turmeric leaves are used instead of foil when grilling fish; and in elementary school she used stone slates for writing instead of paper.

Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis has complained about the condition of Wolf River Blvd in the past and is thankful for the paving that is going on now.

Dr. Davis questioned why electrical cabling is above ground in some areas and below ground in most others. Mr. Mills shared that in areas of new construction underground cabling is being added but MLGW prefers it to be above ground for ease in visual inspections. Underground cabling is extremely expensive.

Mr. Mills shared that TVA is projecting that in 2033, coal and water use will lower in powering electric generation plants, and wind, solar and natural gas will be higher.

Dr. Davis recently purchased an energy storage device which is a lantern and a cell phone charger in one.

Mr. Mills – We have an application in for flower-power tables which are solar flowers with picnic tables underneath. The solar flowers store energy which allows cell phones to be charged. The city is looking into putting these at Houston High School.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission members signed up to volunteer for Amnesty Dumpster Day on September 19. Mr. Nunes will be contacting the Parks & Recreation Department to confirm no scheduling conflicts at Johnson Road Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.