

# Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 3, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.  
Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

## MINUTES

### Present

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Steve Fleischmann  
Andy Foster  
Linda Kaplan

Paul Mosteller  
Scott Schoefernacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh  
Alderman Dave Klevan

### Staff

Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Leslie Acerra

Absent: Urania Erskine

Guest: Hale Barclay

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUEST:

Mr. Hale Barclay attended the meeting. Mr. Barclay is the liaison from the Planning Commission. He has been on the Planning Commission for 4 years. He was on the Parks & Recreation Commission in the past.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills has been in Phoenix for the APWA National Conference for the past week.

The Southern Avenue Aeration Tower Refurbishment project is 100% complete. The final payment has been made and the \$929,000 project was completed under budget. The oxygen content is higher than it has ever been.

The Steering Committee Focus Groups have been established. Several members of the Environmental Commission are members of the Natural Resources group.

The Germantown Festival is September 12th and 13th. The Weenie Race is at 11:00 on Saturday morning. This is the major fundraiser for the year for our Animal Shelter.

Joe Nunes: Inland Waste has been put on notice. July and August service pickup did improve. September has been going well, so far. They are meeting weekly to review service issues.

Mr. Nunes is in the final stages of getting out the RFP (Request for Proposal). He will have an item going to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen requesting the competitive sealed proposal process to be used. This will allow discussion of proposals with each vendor. The goal is to have the request to the BMA by end of this calendar year or the first meeting of January. The city's contract with Inland Waste expires June 30, 2016. The new contract will have a July 1, 2016 start date.

Alderman Klevan: Everything is going well with the opening of the new two-acre Kroger and Whole Foods. Kroger has leased parking space for employees in the underground parking garage in the mall behind the store. Tax revenue should be increasing shortly with the new businesses. There are rumors that Apple is moving to a different location in Saddle Creek Mall and it will be the first U.S. store with the new model. The Thornwood development is on schedule. Some issues are being worked through in the Western Gateway development. School has successfully started back. There is an unfortunate situation being played out in the news with GMS Board. GMS has the highest ACT scores in the state. Houston High School football field has new commercial Astroturf. Kroger will be adding a fuel center where the detention pond is currently located. The detention pond will go to underground detention. No ingress and egress changes will be made on Farmington. The old Kroger will be redesigned and modernized. The developer is adding a building that will back up to the rehab center. Mr. Schoefnacker shared that the new fuel center is in the wellhead protection area. Mr. Mills confirmed that this was already noted on the plan reviews.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller would like the city to develop a plan to have homeowners to check their sprinkler systems to keep from wasting water. Irrigation systems are either over saturating lawns or the sprinkler heads are misdirected which sprays water into the streets.

Mr. Mosteller also questioned which battery operated items were accepted at Amnesty Dumpster Day. He would like a list of acceptable electronics for recycling.

Steve Fleischmann: Mr. Fleischmann asked if shredded paper is acceptable for recycling. Mr. Nunes shared that although paper is recyclable, shredded paper cannot be processed effectively.

Linda Kaplan: The Greenbuild Conference will be in Washington, D.C. the week of November 16th. The cost to attend the conference is \$1,200-\$1,400; however, the cost to go to the exhibits only is \$100.

Jayu Wagh: When Mrs. Wagh lived in Baton Rouge, she was in the environmental assessment industry. Her husband is still in this field now. A Phase I assessment determines if there are any environmental issues at a given property. It is a report that summarizes a site visit and records review to determine if additional environmental investigations are warranted to understand the liability risks associated with the property. Phase I assessments are required for every commercial property transfer. If a property has one or more environmental issues, a Phase 2 investigation is recommended. This investigation is much more comprehensive.

Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis thanked Mr. Nunes that his trash service has improved.

Susan Threlkeld: Mrs. Threlkeld attended the Women in the Environment group meeting at the Main Library and a Service Master representative spoke about cleaning. One topic they spoke on was that people think that things have to smell clean (like Lysol or bleach) to be clean, which is not really the case. Also, hand sanitizer is not necessary, if you wash your hands and wash them correctly. Memphis City Beautiful was there and they have a great informational guide. Mrs. Threlkeld would like Germantown to have a guide like

theirs. To effectively save our air and water from pollution, Mrs. Threlkeld suggested adding items such as storm drain decals and emission testing. Emission guns, similar to radar guns, are now available that would allow police to pull people over and require car repairs to be made.

Chairman Skelley: Mr. Skelley thanked Mr. Foster for chairing the August meeting in his absence.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster shared an article about climate change bringing much needed rain in Africa. Climatologists are glad to see that both sides of the issue are being looked at and that there are positive things coming out of global warming. According to this study, this increase in rain is primarily due to rising greenhouse gas emissions. Global temperature has risen about 1.7 degrees over the last century, but virtually no warming for the last 17 years according to NASA's data. Mr. Foster will email the article to the commission members.

Scott Schoefernacker: CAESER (Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering Research) will be testing shallow aquifer water levels for the county during September and October. USGS is currently doing the same testing. Mr. Mills shared that USGS has already been here. Mr. Mosteller asked about aquifer safety, well safety and controls over aquifers. Mr. Mills explained that Mike Sorensen, Water Services Superintendent, sits on the Groundwater Quality Control Board that governs these concerns. Private wells have acreage and use requirements also. Private wells cannot be used for potable water. Mr. Schoefernacker explained that everything is permitted through the Health Department. Mr. Mosteller asked if there was a need for additional regulations or safeguards. Based on the controls in place at the Health Department and the Groundwater Quality Control Board, Mr. Mills does not feel there is a need for additional regulations at this time.

Hale Barclay: Mr. Barclay shared that Kroger's new gas station will be as unobtrusive as possible.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Commission members signed up to volunteer for Amnesty Dumpster Day on September 19.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.