

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, February 4, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Linda Kaplan
Paul Mosteller

Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh
Alderman Rocky Janda

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

Absent: Steve Fleischmann, Andy Foster and Leslie Acerra

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.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

PAY AS YOU THROW SANITATION:

Last month, at the Mayor's request, Chairman Skelley asked the commission members to research Pay As You Throw Sanitation. Mr. Skelley shared the following questions to frame the discussion:

1. Is PAYT practical?
2. Does it work?
3. What are the negatives?
4. What are the best technologies?
5. Are their added costs or savings benefits?
6. How do we implement the program?
7. What is the time line to do it?
8. Is it right for Germantown?

Commission members discussed the subject at length and are expected to continue researching and reporting on the subject over the next couple of meetings.

Overall the members are in favor of this type of program; however, with the current sanitation collection problems, members feel the first priority should be to get the collection problems settled before beginning a new program. Many questions will need to be answered before total endorsement will be given. Some questions include:

1. Why have cities that tried this program discontinued it?
2. Will this increase recycling volume and/or recycling contamination?

3. Will this increase illegal dumping?
4. What problems have other cities encountered while participating in this type program?
5. Would it be easier to start this program with yard waste?

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: For December, household and yard waste volume was up and recycle volume was down.

The Solid Waste Collection RFP is due February 17. Four contractors attended the mandatory pre-proposal meeting. Two or three are expected to submit bids. A team will evaluate bids and make recommendation for the March 14 BMA meeting. Inland Waste did not attend the pre-proposal meeting; however, there is an option to extend Inland Waste's contract. Inland Waste does have a new manager as of the end of January.

Bo Mills: Mr. Mills believes that a lot of misinformation has been shared concerning the Flint, MI water crisis. The Flint, MI water system was being managed poorly so the state came in and took over the water system. To save money, the state stopped purchasing water from the Detroit system and pulled water from the Flint River. Although the water was treated, it wasn't treated as well as it should have been. Because of this, corrosion from the pipes contaminated the water supply. Mr. Mills also shared that we are fortunate to have great tasting clean water in our area, so we not likely to experience such a problem.

Amnesty Dumpster Days are scheduled for April 16, 2016 and September 17, 2016.

National Public Works Week is May 22 – May 28. A luncheon will be held that week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Urania Erskine: In Ontario, smart meters are being removed because of fires.

Scott Schoefernacker: Mr. Schoefernacker shared an article about water level changes across the United States. He showed a color coded map created by NASA that shows use. The map is based on density of earth and these changes represent water levels. For more information, the website is climate.gov.

Mr. Schoefernacker shared an article stating that national water use is at its lowest since 1970. Usage is down from 410 billion gallons per day to 355 billion gallons per day.

Linda Kaplan: TVA will release a request for a proposal for a new electric truck refrigeration unit (eTRU) on February 16. Their goal is to reduce carbon emissions by decreasing diesel fuel use while parked at loading docks.

Jayu Wagh: While growing up in India, recycling was a normal part of life. Now, Delhi, the capital of India, is the most polluted city in the world. This is because of the growing population and limited ways for removing polluted air. To reduce air pollution, the city government restricted cars to drive every other day based on odd and even license plates. Although this did not reduce pollution, it did help with traffic jams. The majority of pollution is from dust. Solid waste burning is prohibited. Recently there was a landfill fire. Vacuum sweeping of the major roads could help. More electric and hybrid vehicles are needed.

OLD BUSINESS:

To follow up on last month's question as to whether or not the *Talk of the Town* is included with the electronic notification billing, a printed copy of an electronic notification was shared. A link to the *Talk of the Town* is sent with the electronic notifications.

NEW BUSINESS:

The We Sustain Shelby campaign launched February 1, 2016. This is a 6-month campaign to encourage changes in daily routines to become better stewards of the environment.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.