

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Steve Fleischmann

Alderman Rocky Janda
Paul Mosteller
Susan Threlkeld

Jayu Wagh

Absent: Jimmy Davis, Andy Foster, Linda Kaplan, and Scott Schoefernacker

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 June meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: After one month of service with Waste Pro, Recycling has increased 50%. Although there were start up issues, operationally equipment is running well. Not all computer software was available for the early start-up in June but has since been implemented. The number of City temporary employees hired for the increased call load has been reduced. Some cart problems are continuing as new carts are delivered. Carts are computer chipped to coincide with customer addresses. Over 1,100 customers have changed from Back Door service to Curbside service. Changes to rates will be reflected on Water Bills starting July 1. Alderman Janda states he's seen and heard good things about Waste Pro. Susan pointed out errors on Talk of the Town which Joe will address. Collierville has a wonderful website with extensive details on Stormwater ...Do's, Don'ts, etc. Everyone agrees that the instructions printed on the Trash and Recycle carts are very helpful.

Bo Mills: "Show and Tell: Water Meters". Bo brought examples of a Master Meter and a Rockwell Meter and instructed how to read each. Even when the meter box is full of water, our meter readers have devices called "sight tubes" that separate the water and allow the numbers to be read. The meter readers enter the reading on a handheld device which shows both the meter number and the previous reading. Once the meters are read, the data is downloaded to the computer for billing. We bill in thousand gallons.

Bo pointed out the curbstop, where you turn your water off in the event of a leak or flood at your home. In normal circumstances, only our technicians should turn the water off and on.

Meters are usually changed out after they register between 4000-5000 units (thousand gallons). As the meter ages, it will begin to fail because the magnet turning the register weakens. Leak indicators on the meters show even the slightest amount of water going through. Cost of a ¾" meter is approximately \$80

and it takes about an hour to replace one. Master meters can be up to 2" – 4" for Apartments, Condominiums and Commercial customers. Fire suppression will by-pass the meter. Joe Skelly shared that his grandfather was once the Superintendent of Utilities in Paris, TN.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Steve Fleischmann: Commercial Appeal reported Memphis having similar problems with Inland Waste that Germantown experienced.

Susan Threlkeld: The Memphis Agricenter offers monthly tours to the Solar Farm on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. Visitors are able to go on site and see operations. The Farm generates enough electricity for the Agricenter Buildings. The solar panels rotate from east to west with the sun and even utilize the occurrence of a full moon. When high winds occur, the panels flatten out to prevent damage. Some educational displays are in place and you can self tour if gates are unlocked.

Urania Erskine: Website for Pollinator Workshop registration was not extremely detailed.

Urania shared about countries with high recycle rates. Austria, Germany, North Korea, etc. Citizens bring their recycles to stations where volunteers help with sorting and use peer pressure to get better participation in recycling. Top recycling rates internationally are around 55%. Joe Nunes stated that our City's recycle per total volume is about 18%; Different methods of measurement make it difficult to compare rates. Knoxville is trying to remove glass from their recycle stream and have special drop-off bins for glass recyclables. Urania points out that society in general will have more recycling as we will have no choice.

Paul Mosteller: Paul's decorative street sign located at the corner of his yard has paint that is oxidizing and peeling. He has repainted before but it continues to peel over time. Is there some type of latex paint that could be applied over the concrete base and the post that would be more durable?

Alderman Janda: No Report. Thanks commission members for their work on the Commission.

Jayu Wagh: Jayu shared an article she read concerning Styrene, the material from which Styrofoam coffee cups and packing peanuts are made. San Francisco will ban Styrene by 2017. Poultry trays, meat trays and "to-go" containers will be included in the ban. San Francisco is seeking a "waste free" society. Sprouts Farmer's Market credits customers \$.05 if you use recycle bags and Whole Foods gives \$.10 credit if you use your own bags.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.