

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, March 7, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Services Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley

Clyde Davidson

Jimmy Davis

Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan

Laura Meanwell

Paul Mosteller

David Thorpe

Staff

Joe Nunes

Leslie Throneberry

Alderman John Drinnon

Guest: Susan Threlkeld

Absent: Urania Erskine, Steve Fleischmann, Anne Wesberry, Bo Mills

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 GUESTS:

Chairman Skelley presented Susan Threlkeld with a wooden jewelry box and a list of books that were purchased for the Germantown Community Library in her honor as a token of appreciation for her many years of service to the Environmental Commission.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes reported that the recycling volume is back to normal this month after declines in December and January.

Mr. Nunes informed us that the City is in the budget process. The solid waste budget will be presented to the Financial Advisory Commission on March 19, 2013.

Mr. Nunes recently represented the City of Germantown at the Shelby County Solid Waste Planning Board meeting to review with all of the other Shelby County municipalities the totals that Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation requires annually. They are currently working with a solid waste plan from 1994. They will be producing a more current plan.

Mulch Day is Saturday, March 16, 2013.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

David Thorpe: Mr. Thorpe had nothing to report.

Jimmy Davis: Dr. Davis had nothing to report.

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller had some follow up questions on rinsing recyclable products. How clean do the recyclables need to be? Mr. Nunes will do some research to get Mr. Mosteller an answer. Mr. Mosteller also asked if it would be possible to put this information in the *Talk of the Town* so that it might encourage people to recycle.

Laura Meanwell: Mrs. Meanwell reported that she agreed to take on the Education Subcommittee. She has contacted Brandy Miller to get some information that was used in the past.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan informed us that Earth Hour is coming up on March 23, 2013 at 8:30 p.m. She would us to put something on the City website to inform the residents.

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster reported that FedEx will be increasing its fleet's fuel efficiency by 20% by the year 2020. This will be done by using a combination of hybrid and electric vehicles.

Mr. Foster also reported on heating coal without burning it; therefore, there are no serious emissions.

Mr. Foster informed us about the wind turbine problem in Cape Cod. As they spin, air is being pounded into the ground and this pounding is affecting the residents' homes and health. The city says it will cost between \$5-\$15 million dollars to take the turbines down. Until a decision is made, the city is turning the turbines off at night.

Clyde Davidson: Mr. Davidson had nothing to report.

Alderman Drinnon: Alderman Drinnon stated that he appreciates that the Environmental Commission meetings are well organized and well managed.

Old Business: Several members signed the Code of Ethics policy form and Leslie forwarded them to Dotty Johnson.

New Business: Mulch Day is Saturday, March 16 at 8:00 a.m. at the Public Services Complex. Volunteers are not needed for this event.

Amnesty Day is Saturday, April 20, 2013. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.