



CITY OF GERMANTOWN TENNESSEE

1930 South Germantown Road • Germantown, Tennessee 38138-2815
Phone (901) 757-7200 Fax (901) 757-7292 www.germantown-tn.gov

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 7, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Andy Foster
Alderman Janda

Linda Kaplan
Paul Mosteller
Scott Schoefernacker
Jayu Wagh

Staff

Kathy Cross
Joe Nunes

Absent

Jimmy Davis
Steve Fleischmann
Susan Threlkeld
Bo Mills

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Sandy Hudson, our newest Code Enforcement Officer, was introduced by Joe Nunes. She will be attending Amnesty Day on September 16th in Mr. Nunes' absence.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes: Mr. Nunes shared the monthly cycle volume reports: recycle volume is up about 2% to date. Germantown should be at a higher volume. The chips have been installed in the carts and are tracking usage; eighty-five percent of our residents received recycle carts but only 62% of those residents are putting their recycle to the curb. In August, we averaged 34 lbs. per household if you take into consideration the entire group of residents who received carts or 52 lbs. per household if you consider the 62% that are actually recycling. The other good news is that our processing cost of recycling is down approximately 50%



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from last August. The report from the cart chips is divided by routes so soon we will be able to zero in on what routes are generating the higher volume of recycled materials.

Mr. Nunes will be absent for Amnesty Day on September 16th. Mr. Nunes will be supplying additional signage for the event to better direct residents.

Chairman Skelley shared that Director Mills is in Quebec, Canada. He was chosen as the President of the American Public Works Association and is in Canada serving in that capacity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Paul Mosteller: Mr. Mosteller shared that he will not be able to attend Amnesty Day. He also shared an article from the Commercial Appeal by Tom Volinchak. The article is about the Blue Stream Task Force. Mr. Schoefnacker agrees that Mr. Volinchak has a point that all groundwater has constituents. Mr. Volinchak would like to see Mayor Strickland re-energize the Blue Stream Task Force. Mr. Mosteller will revisit this topic when Director Mills is present to see what role, if any, Germantown would play in such a task force. Mr. Foster added that a friend saw a website claiming that 94% of our drinking water contains plastics. Mrs. Erskine saw an article in the paper that confirmed that micro-fiber from laundry gets into surface water. Mr. Schoefnacker stated that these tiny fibers can get in through intake pipes at water plants and are too small to be filtered out. These fibers eventually can reach our drinking water.

Mr. Mosteller also brought forms for the Commission members in case anyone would like to register their home address on the "DO NOT MAIL" list to eliminate unwanted mail.

Urania Erskine: Mrs. Erskine posed a question to Scott Schoefnacker: "With all the articles written about water recently, are we okay?" Mr. Schoefnacker said we are fine. The new power plant in Memphis is not pumping from the aquifers currently; they are accepting water strictly from MLGW at this time. They still have to prep the turbines to get them up and running. Mr. Schoefnacker's center (Center for Applied Earth Science and Engineering - CAESER) and the USGS (United States Geological Survey) are doing a study, sampling the groundwater and drilling shallow wells; they will be running a pump test and are working on the logistics of that. Once the data is in, he will know more, but they will continue to monitor water levels and quality, both before and after the pump test. It's good that regulations will be revised because they are over 30 years old but changing regulations can be a double edged sword; if you make regulations too strict, industry can go to Mississippi or elsewhere.

Linda Kaplan: Mrs. Kaplan has two bits of news to share. Making polyester fiber from used PET (Polyethylene terephthalate) bottles is nothing new, but it is new to the National Basketball Association for this up and coming season; their uniforms will be made from the recycled material.

Mrs. Kaplan also shared an article about brewing a more sustainable future: "Every time you toss an aluminum can into a recycling bin, you're living a legacy pioneered by Bill Coors. The visionary beer brewer



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helped introduce the idea of recyclable aluminum cans in the 1950s, and Coors Brewing has been a leader in innovative waste reduction, waste conservation, energy, and sustainable brewing practices ever since.”

Andy Foster: Mr. Foster attended his 40th High School Reunion recently. One of his former classmates shared that he lives in Rockport, TX where the eye of the hurricane hit. His wife stayed at the home in their safe room during the storm. Three stores he owns there were flooded. Another friend sales insurance in Texas; he insures five warehouses that were all flooded. He said the flooding was most of their damage because of the sheer volume of rain. Mr. Foster shared that he had flooding in his condo in Germantown during the storm. There are conflicting reports as to whether Harvey, Irma or Andrew is the largest storm. Mr. Foster has joined a website called “Weather Bell”. The gentleman who runs the website does weather for companies such as energy companies. One of the items shared on the website is daily reports on Irma. He thinks we are back into weather patterns similar to the 1930’s; in the 1960’s there were a lot of storms that hit Florida as well. The website has a lot of good information about hurricanes.

As a public service announcement, Mr. Foster shared that Equifax has been hacked. Millions of peoples’ personal records have been compromised. Mrs. Erskine shared that Equifax is offering a free monitoring service.

Scott Schoefernacker: Mr. Schoefernacker shared that he has 115 stormwater stickers to be handed off to John Johnson for installation in English Meadows this month.

Jayu Wagh: No report.

Alderman Janda: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.