

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

March 5, 2009 6 PM  
MUNICIPAL CENTER

### MINUTES

#### **Present**

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Brandy Miller  
Susan Threlkeld

Linda Kaplan  
Andy Foster  
Alderman Palazzolo  
Hayne, Sandra

#### **Staff**

Bo Mills  
Juanita Bell  
Joe Nunes  
Tim Bierdz

**Absent:** Craig Lazarov, Tim Sauter, David Thorpe and Clyde Davidson

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. A quorum was declared present.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:**

The Commission welcomes Mr. Ken Adams as a visitor.

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The minutes of the February 5, 2009 meeting of the Environmental Commission were unanimously approved.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Bo Mills:**

- Mr. Mills reported on the advancement of the Johnson Road Water Plant Expansion. The Reservoir has been installed and the top will be placed on it over the next couple of weeks. Crews had to tie the two existing reservoirs together and drain the water from both reservoirs. The men had to enter the reservoirs in completely sterile suits and gear to accomplish this task.
- Mr. Mills commented on the use of salt for icy roadways. Crews do not use an abundance of salt because of its effect on the environment and damage to vehicles. Coal cinders had been used in the past but had proven to be less effective.

##### **Joe Nunes:**

- Mr. Nunes announced Mulch Day will be held March 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until they run out of mulch and will be held at the Public Services Complex.
- Recycling reports for year to date show a 1.2% increase.
- Mr. Nunes presented an article from the Commercial Appeal titled "Collierville looks at garbage fee hike".
- Recycling facilities have begun billing and it was more than expected. Facilities have advised that they will charge as much as \$54/ton for co mingled and \$40/ton for fiber in the near future. The charge for January/February 2009 was \$30/ton which is roughly the cost for dumping in the landfill (currently \$31.86/ton). Mr. Nunes will continue to look for a more economical and environmentally safe method and has spoken with Recycled Solutions which do take fiber and hopefully the remainder can be outsourced to other facilities.
- A new brochure is being created which will explain the household trash and yard debris removal. The Commission was asked to review the rough draft of the brochure and make any corrections or adjustments.
- The Neighborhood Preservation Commission will be hosting the Annual Home Tour on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Linda Kaplan will be showcasing her home and doing environmental research.

##### **Tim Bierdz:**

- Mr. Bierdz will be presenting the Storm Water Utility Fee to the Directors and City Administrators to give them the option and review the revenue that would potentially be collected. This meeting will take place next week. If the Directors and City Administrators accept the idea, it would be taken to the Financial Subcommittee and then the Board of Mayor and Alderman.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **Andy Foster – Energy Use Resource Management:**

- Mr. Foster mentioned that the garbage trucks did not efficiently collect the trash with multiple trips down the same street to collect both sides. Mr. Joe Nunes explained that this method was quicker and more cost efficient because the trucks only have one driver.
- Mr. Foster announced that the television conversion has been moved out to June 12, 2009. A new legislation allows people with expired Digital Converter Box Coupons to reapply. Upon investigating, Mr. Foster found that older VCRs and DVD players may not work once the conversion takes place. Also, the Converter Box Coupon Program does not apply to the purchase of all converter boxes.

### **Jimmy Davis – Research:**

- Mr. Davis presented two articles on citizens who accumulated all their trash for one year in hopes of bringing awareness to the amount of trash each person throws away each day.
- Mr. Davis questioned disposal of syringes and was told that they can be disposed of with regular trash as long as they are in the proper container.

### **Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:**

- Nothing to report

### **Brandy Miller – Education:**

- Ms. Miller confirmed a date with Dogwood Elementary School for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will complete the presentations at all Germantown public elementary schools. Ms. Miller is still attempting to present to Our Lady of Perpetual Health.

### **Linda Kaplan – Think Green:**

- Ms. Kaplan expressed her appreciation to Tim Sauter, Susan Threlkeld and Joe Nunes for their attendance at The Temple Israel Commission sponsored event, “Eco Expo”. There were more than 600 visitors and 55 vendors.
- Ms. Kaplan will be attending the MLGW “EnergySmart” event. It is expected to be an informative event and Ms. Kaplan will report back to the Commission.
- Ms. Kaplan reported an event called “Earth Hour” in which people around the world are asked to turn off their lights and all unnecessary equipment for one hour in order to send a message to leaders that we must act now to slow climate change. Germantown was unable to publish this event in the Town News but Ms. Kaplan will look into it for next year. Ms. Kaplan also has calls into the City of Memphis Mayor’s Office in hopes of turning off the lights on the Memphis Bridge for Earth Hour.
- Ms. Kaplan has spoken to Lisa Piefer, purchasing officer for the City, and inquired about the City’s usage of recycled papers and toilet tissue. Ms. Piefer will investigate and contact Ms. Kaplan with any information.

### **Alderman Palazzolo:**

- Alderman Palazzolo met with Commission Chairman, Joe Skelley and discussed some dynamic ideas that we will be introducing to the Commission in the spring or early summer for feedback. City offices do not recycle as well as resident and staff never came up with an Environmental Sustainability Policy in Vision 2020. There is a conference of U.S. Mayors that have signed an agreement similar to the Kyoto Protocol that the City of Germantown just hasn’t prepared for.

### **Sandra Hayne – Neighborhood Preservation Commission Liaison:**

- Ms. Hayne announced that the Annual Home Tour will be using a charity sponsor and the choice is between MIFA and the Ronald McDonald House. Davis Jackson will be chairing this event.
- Ms. Hayne informed the Commission that the Neighborhood Preservation Commission will be hosting a “Day of Caring” event to assist seniors.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Announcement of upcoming events:  
Mulch Day – March 14<sup>th</sup>  
Amnesty Day – April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Germantown Business Expo – April 23<sup>rd</sup> (The Environmental Commission will be involved.)  
Arbor Day Tree Give-Away – Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.