



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, May 3, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Urania Erskine
Kevin Haley
Linda Kaplan
Alderman Dean Massey
Francoise Mireles
Scott Schoefernacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Director Bo Mills
Kathy Cross
Joe Nunes

Absent:

Jimmy Davis
Andy Foster

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 April meeting were approved. Susan Threlkeld opposed the approval of the minutes as recorded expressing that the Alderman Liaison's Report was inaccurate.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

We had no guests.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman Massey reported on the groundbreaking for the new school. Alderman Massey thanked all the workers for their participation at Amnesty Day.



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STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

- Results from Amnesty Day:
 - 1,088 total vehicles participated
 - Logistics of shredding and electronic recycling proved to be a challenge.
 - 51.72 tons of debris was collected
 - Scrap metal recycle volume was 7.15 tons, up 28%
 - Electronic recycle volume was 10.28 tons, down 20%
 - Shredding contractors will be given September's and next spring's dates to insure there will be 2 trucks available
- The monthly recycling volume is down slightly for the month and down year-to-date; recycle processing cost is down slightly.
- National Garbage Man Day will be observed June 18th. Pizza will be served at the Horse Show Pavilion at 11:30 a.m. Commission members are invited.
- Mr. Nunes will be attending Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Annual Environmental Show of the South that will be held the week of May 16th in Chattanooga.

Director Mills:

- Director Mills spoke to the Kiwanis Club in April about Public Works and the proposed water tower.
- Director Mills has been meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee regularly for the last month and a half. The full budget will go before the Board next Wednesday for work session review. The reading process will begin shortly thereafter; there are three Board meetings to approve the readings of the budget.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Scott Schoefernacker:

- Memphis has created signs displaying a picture of debris covering McKellar Lake and posted them in public areas to increase stormwater awareness. Mr. Schoefernacker will look into possibly having similar signs made and displayed in Germantown to increase awareness.

Susan Threlkeld:

- Tennessee Recycling Coalition's \$25 dues are now due.
- Treehuggers.org had an article about Dollywood's recycling practices.



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- Picking up litter while walking is now referred to as “Plalking” and while jogging is referred to as “Plogging”.

Urania Erskine:

- Congratulations to Susan Threlkeld, the new Vice President of the Germantown Garden Club; there will now be more sustainable gardening going on and more push for blue bird houses at the Farm Park.
- The Germantown Financial Commission has recommended that the Farm Park get a full-time employee.

Kevin Haley:

- Shared an article concerning a gentleman in India who created edible eating utensils made from millet, rice and wheat.
- Shared an article about biodegradable or compostable plastic ware; it does not necessarily break down and some that do break down are not always good for the environment.

Linda Kaplan:

- Shared a product purchased online called “ETEE” – Everything Touches Everything Else, an organic food wrap made from fabric coated in wax.

Francoise Mireles:

- Proposed providing contractors at our Amnesty Days to collect salvageable items for recycling, such as construction materials, bicycles, etc. Mrs. Mireles will reach out to organizations that provide this service for future Amnesty Days.

Jayu Wagh:

- Shared an article concerning European Union Countries, including Germany and France, have agreed to ban pesticides that harm bees.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Skelley thanked commission members for their participation at Amnesty Day.

NEW BUSINESS

National Public Works Week annual cookout will be held May 23rd, at 11:30 a.m. at the Tanner Pavilion, Germantown Charity Horse Show Arena. All commission members are invited.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.