



# 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, October 4, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.  
Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

## MINUTES

### Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Andy Foster  
Linda Kaplan  
Alderman Dean Massey  
Francoise Mireles  
Scott Schoefernacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

### Staff:

Andy Sanders  
Joe Nunes  
Kathy Cross

### Absent:

Kevin Haley  
Bo Mills

### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

We had no guests.

### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

### STAFF REPORTS:

Andy Sanders:

- Phase I of the Southern Avenue Electrical Panel Replacement Project has started and will hopefully be completed in October.
- Phase II of the project has been bid out and the approval will be going before the Board Monday, October 8th, for Phoenix Electric Co.



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- Milling and Paving Contractor has been selected for the largest contract amount on record, \$2.2 million, and work will start in two weeks on Wolf River Boulevard; Crews will be working at night.

Joe Nunes:

- Recycle volume for the month is down about 8% year to date, Yard Waste volume is only slightly below normal and Household waste is up approximately 6%.
- "Recycle the Right Way" magnets are now available. The "Feet on the Street" campaign will wrap up in October; The #1 issue found through the campaign is use of plastic bags with recyclables.
- Sierra Club Meeting will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup>, "What's Up with Recycling in Memphis?" at the Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library, 3030 Poplar Ave, from 6 pm – 8 pm.
- Shelby County Solid Waste Region Board Quarterly Meeting will be held on October 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. at 6449 Haley Dr, Memphis; this meeting is open to the public.
- Germantown Neighborhood Preservation Commission is presenting the Neighborhood Summit on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Great Hall and Conference Center.
- America Recycles Day is November 15<sup>th</sup>; you may fill out a pledge for recycling on the Keep America Beautiful website.

## ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman Massey:

- October 6<sup>th</sup> at Cameron Brown Park, a 4 mile bike ride will take place. Games and festivities begin at 5 pm and the bike ride will follow.
- BMA meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> will include Warrants for the Travure and rezoning of the Cordova Triangle from T4 Urban designation to its original Residential zoning.
- BMA meeting in September included changes to cell towers. The Environmental Commission might find concerns to email to the Administration for their attention.

## COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Jayu Wagh:

- Argentina and Brazil are trying to be more environmentally friendly; on a current visit to South America, no plastic bags were available at stores. Recycle receptacles were available next to each trash container. Glass bottles were used in hotels for soda and water instead of plastic.
- In San Pedro, Chile, window coverings were made from dried cane rather than glass.

Linda Kaplan:

- An environmental charity Hubbub launched its new boat, "PET project", made from 99% plastic waste in the UK. PET Project is made from recycled single-use plastic.
- Tom Tyler has founded Innovative Construction Materials Limited, a company that will produce roof tiles from plastic bottles.



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Scott Schoefnacker:

- The USGS has published its 2000–2015 Altitude of potentiometric surfaces and historical water-level changes in the Memphis aquifer in the Memphis area. Water consumption decreased from 188 million gallons per day to 142 million gallons per day. The report is available to the public at <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sim3415>.

Francoise Mireles:

- Reebok has created a tennis shoe described as “a pure, petroleum-free, non-toxic, 100-percent USDA-certified bio-based product, derived from field corn”. The sneaker features a woven upper made entirely from organic cotton, a base originating from industrial-grown corn, and an insole made using castor bean oil. No dyes have been used to color the shoes and the packaging is 100% recyclable. The shoe can be composted after use.

Susan Threlkeld:

- Can openers that open cans by removing the crimp create a safer lid for recycling.
- One plastic bag getting caught up into a cotton baler can contaminate a bale of cotton, limiting the uses for that bale.
- Facebook has become a forum for complaints about high water bills. Public Works staff responded to complaints with re-reading of meters, leak inspections and meter tests. The Commission expressed their thanks for the great job Public Works does.

Jimmy Davis:

- Increases in subscription rates and more digital alternatives such as the Commercial Appeal and the Daily Memphian could correlate with the dropping of recycle volume.

Andy Foster:

- Commuters in India may soon be able to reserve seats in air conditioned buses during peak hours via a mobile app at competitive prices. The company “City Flow” is a startup company in Mumbai, India is self described as an on-demand bus aggregator. With support from FedEx a “Better Bus” challenge for India had 75 entries. Three companies that had the winning solutions were “City Flow”, “Small Spark Concepts” and “Cell Propulsion”.
- The Great American Shake Out will be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:18 a.m.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Amnesty Day review: 34.04 tons were collected, up 60% from last fall. Thank you to our Environmental Commission Volunteers! Habitat for Humanity ReStore’s first experience was a success.



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## NEW BUSINESS:

- Commission Dinner will be held November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m. at the Great Hall.
- Please sign up to bring a dish for our Environmental Commission Holiday Meeting to be held December 6, at 6p.m.
- Commission Reappointments are due by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Applications are accepted on-line only.

## ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.