



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, February 14, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building
7700 Southern Avenue

MINUTES

Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Linda Kaplan
Francoise Mireles
Paul Mosteller
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

Staff:

Bo Mills
Andrew Sanders
Joe Nunes
Kathy Cross

Absent:

Andy Foster
Alderman Rocky Janda
Scott Schoefernacker

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Chairman Skelley recognized Richard Marsh, Liaison from the Germantown Planning Commission.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

Chairman Skelley presented the 2019 Environmental Commission Work Plan. Director Mills explained how the work plan was determined. Joe Nunes noted a correction to the April Amnesty Day on the Work Plan; Amnesty Day will take place on April 27th.



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ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

- Congratulations to Linda Kaplan for her "Personal Touch" awarded by the Sierra Club.
- Recycle and household waste volumes were presented.
- Charmaine Jones has notified the City that May will be her last month. She has been very involved with the Amnesty Days in the past. Michelle McDonnell will be helping with Amnesty Day in April.
- The Solid Waste Region Board met in January and approved a new class 3 landfill in Memphis near Shelby Oaks Drive. The facility will be owned and operated by Mr. Brown who also runs the class 3 landfill in Collierville.
- The Solid Waste Region Board also approved looking at a new solid waste plan for Shelby County.

Director Bo Mills:

PowerPoint Presentation of the Proposed Water Tower to be constructed out east; This presentation will be made at the Board of Mayor and Alderman Retreat on February 23rd. Commission Members were encouraged to give their input on the presentation.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Jayu Wagh:

A Science Daily article concerning Researchers from the University of Illinois at Chicago bringing artificial leaves out of the laboratory and into the environment. Their improved leaf, which would use carbon dioxide -- a potent greenhouse gas -- from the air, would be at least 10 times more efficient than natural leaves at converting carbon dioxide to fuel.

Susan Threlkeld:

New reusable straws are available; the new straws can be cut to various sizes, can be washed in hot water and their packaging includes a brush to make cleaning easy.

Urania Erskine:

Mrs. Erskine made a motion which was seconded and unanimously approved; The Environmental Commission will recommend to Germantown's Administration, Mayor and Aldermen to move forward with the purchase of the Germantown Country Club to be used as parkland for the benefit of our community. The opportunity to acquire this asset for the City will not come again.

Staff will prepare a memo for Chairman Skelley's approval communicating this action by the commission to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.



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Francoise Mireles:
Nothing to report.

Linda Kaplan:
“Old Sparky”: Could Electricity Be Farming’s New Weed Killer? An article from the Farm Journal shares possibilities of the use of “electricides” as a viable source of weed-control energy.

Dr. Jimmy Davis:
An article stated that 60 countries have introduced some type of ban on single use plastics to reduce the tons of plastics that flow into the world’s oceans. The European Union has taken the lead with the ban of 10 single use plastic items including plastic straws and cotton swabs.

Paul Mosteller:

- Trader Joe’s Newsletter informed that they will be making an effort to reduce plastics by no longer offering single use plastic bags, replacing plastic produce bags with biodegradable and compostable bags, and replacing Styrofoam trays with biobased compostable trays.
- Distribute material on Amnesty day promoting reduction of the use of plastics, especially single use plastics; give a reusable bag to use in the place of plastic bags. Increase awareness in the community about plastic bags and gain support.

OLD BUSINESS
No old business.

NEW BUSINESS
No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2019
TO: Mayor and Board of Aldermen
FROM: Joe Skelley, Environmental Commission Chairman *JS*
SUBJECT: Purchase of Germantown Country Club

Mrs. Urania Erskine made the following motion which was seconded by Paul Mosteler. The Environmental Commission recommends to Germantown's Mayor and Aldermen to move forward with the purchase of the Germantown Country Club property as parkland for the benefit of our community.

Action: Unanimous Approval

Joe Skelley, Chair E.C.