



# 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, June 13, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building  
7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Andy Foster  
Alderman Rocky Janda  
Linda Kaplan  
Francoise Mireles  
Paul Mosteller  
Scott Schoefernacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Jayu Wagh

#### Staff:

Director Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes

#### Absent:

Kathy Cross

#### CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the May meeting were approved.

#### COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

#### ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:



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## Alderman Rocky Janda:

- BMA special called meeting to take place on June 14 at 8 a.m. Two items will be discussed, Disaster Declaration in order to approach FEMA for assistance, and also to create a 501-3C to enable the City and individuals to donate to emergency funds. The funds will be funneled through the Kiwanis Club of Germantown.

## STAFF REPORTS:

### Director Mills:

- Review of the day's train derailment
- Review of the After Action Report for June 6th storm event; how we responded.

### Joe Nunes:

- Waste Pro responded to the storm event with 12 trucks to help clean up debris. The initial estimate for the clean-up is expected to be around \$25,000.00.
- Still waiting on some numbers from Amnesty Day.
  - Approximately 212 cars at Southern Avenue and 600 cars at Johnson Road.
  - Good partnership with Habitat for Humanity
  - Possible changes in layout to avoid traffic back-ups
  - Avoid handouts that may slow line
- National Waste Collector Day celebrated June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Great Hall.
- Charmaine Jones has retired after almost 33 years.
- Recyclable collection is down. A fire at the recycle facility on May 30<sup>th</sup> caused the facility to be closed for four days; Recyclables had to be taken to the landfill for a few days and as a result next month's numbers will be down.

## COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

### Andy Foster:

Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officially opened the first stage of the Waves to Water Prize, which seeks to accelerate the development of wave energy powered desalination systems and launch novel technologies to address critical water security challenges.

### Dr. Jimmy Davis:

While in the Denver Area, passed a landfill; constant flow of trucks that were all well kept.

### Susan Threlkeld:

Nothing to report.

### Urania Erskine:

Farm Park Gardeners Association planning to burn down Terry Home



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- Organic area – ecology is a concern.
- Trees could be in danger
- Animals and Bees could be in danger

#### Jayu Wagh:

Reza Montazami, associate professor of mechanical engineering, is leading the research to reduce e-waste with his exploration of “transient technology” that dissipates when exposed to light, heat or liquid. His team’s latest development is a self-destructing lithium-ion battery. When dropped in water, the battery casing swells, breaks apart the electrodes and dissolves away. While nanoparticles in the battery don’t degrade, they do disperse as the electrodes break apart, which mitigates environmental impact. Professor John Rogers of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is exploring a similar process with silicon circuit boards.

#### Scott Schoefemacker:

TVA is discharging in the river from ash ponds as part of their remediation plan; TDEC is aware.

#### Francoise Mireles:

- Some plastic shopping bags in the U.S. are being stamped with shameful pictures to encourage people not to use plastic bags.
- Indigo Agriculture North American headquarters downtown is implementing the new Teraton Initiative which seeks to remove one trillion tons (one teraton) of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and return them to the soil.
- Joe Skelley: If employees bike to work, Indigo Agriculture will reimburse bike maintenance costs.

#### Paul Mosteller:

- Possible volunteer appreciation event in a few months to say “Thank You”.
- Governor Bill Lee to sign bill passed by Tennessee Lawmakers to regulate certain plastic bags and utensils. Some cities have considered levying taxes against single-use plastic bags to discourage their use; Biodegradable plastics or paper bags could be viable alternatives.

#### Linda Kaplan:

Indigo Agriculture’s Teraton Initiative will protect small farmers by protecting the soil. Farm practices used by farmers in the past will again be used, such as minimal tillage, cover cropping, crop rotation, and perennial cropping, among other practices, increase soil’s carbon content.

#### OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

#### ADJOURNMENT:



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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe Skelley", is written over a horizontal line.

Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman