



# 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, July 11, 2019 – 6:00 p.m.

Public Works Building

7700 Southern Avenue

### MINUTES

#### Present:

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Jimmy Davis  
Urania Erskine  
Alderman Rocky Janda  
Linda Kaplan  
Francoise Mireles  
Paul Mosteller  
Scott Schoefernacker  
Susan Threlkeld  
Richard Marsh, Planning Commission

#### Staff:

Director Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Kathy Cross

#### Absent:

Jayu Wagh  
Andy Foster

#### 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:

No guests were present. Commissioner Marsh was welcomed by Chairman Skelley.

#### CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

#### COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN:

#### ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:



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## STAFF REPORTS:

### Director Mills:

- Informed the Commission about the 36 inch sewer collapse at Kimbrough and Farmingdale.
- Updated the Commission on the June 6th storm / flooding event.

### Joe Nunes:

- Reported that 150+ cubic yards of debris was collected in response to the June 6 storm support for residents.
- Reported recycle numbers are down.
- Shared place mats used at Waste Pro "Thank You Day" / National Waste Collector Day celebrated June 18<sup>th</sup>. Acknowledged EC support for the event.
- Commissioner Mosteller asks Joe about millennial participation in recycling. Ideas were shared.
- Commissioner Mosteller asks about plastic bag recycling acknowledging Kroger and Sprouts have programs.

## COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

### Commissioner Schoefnacker:

Dr. Schoefnacker described the CAESER programs assistance to be provided to the City to help explain the extreme storm water event that happened on June 6 & 7. Describing it as a "freak" event, Schoefnacker explained how CAESER plans to gather data and model the rain event for display at the upcoming public information event.

### Commissioner Mireles:

Mireles brought attention the lithium battery recycling where the cobalt and the lithium are being recycled by N-Cycle. She shared that this is a new process to separate these components.

### Commissioner Davis:

Dr. Davis referenced a BBC article on how garbage is piling up globally. He noted that Americans produce about three times the waste globally, yet recycle the least amount of the waste.

### Commissioner Mosteller:

Mosteller offered his congratulations to Kathy Cross for her promotion to ECD and acknowledged how much the Commission would miss her good work.

### Commissioner Threlkeld:

Threlkeld showed packets of Sweet & Low that are specifically designed to reduce waste. She quoted the package promoting, "Same sweet taste, less waste".

### Commissioner Erskine:



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Erskine described for the Commission how the Compost Fairy program worked. They pick up your waste, compost it and bring you back your equivalent. There is a charge for this service. The portion that is not returned supports farming. She acknowledged that this is a good example of recycling.

#### Planning Commissioner Liaison Marsh:

Marsh shared that there was no planned Planning Commission meeting this month. In the future, the PC would be taking up several projects, including the elevated water tower, cell tower placement and the FCC rules that govern cell tower installations. Commissioner Mosteller asks Marsh if there were discussions about removing other cell tower facilities within school areas. The response was no, not at this time.

#### Alderman Liaison Janda:

Janda shared that his son-in-law, a physician, had researched the cell phone tower causing health problems for school children issue and reported the claims of harm are simply not substantiated.

#### Linda Kaplan:

Kaplan shared that the Nature Conservancy had a booth set up at Lowe's promoting membership. She acknowledged these efforts are good for our community's environmental awareness.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners had a general discussion about community outreach to the flood victims and how different organizations responded. All acknowledged that the outreach was impressive.

#### NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion from Commissioner Mosteller at 6:48 p.m.

Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman