

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

April 1, 2010 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Andy Foster

Linda Kaplan
Judith Goden
Dr. Jimmy Davis

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Juanita Bell

Visitor

Ken Adams

Absent: Brandy Miller, David Thorpe, Clyde Davidson, Urania Erskine

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joe Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

The Commission welcomes Ken Adams as a recurring visitor.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the March 4, 2010 were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills announced the Riverdale Nature Playground which will be an interactive playground in a natural setting. It is being sponsored by Germantown Baptist, Playcorp. Of America and City of Germantown. It will cost the City very little and is very exciting and expected to be recognized nationally. There will be educational stations for storm water and recycling and it will be a neighborhood park as well as for Riverdale school.

Mr. Mills advised that the fire station on Forest Hill Road which dates back to the 1960's is about to be demolished and a new LEED certified building in its place. Even the demolition will be LEED certified. It will be a \$3 million state of the art facility capable of operating Emergency Management System from that station in the case the City Hall is compromised. Firefighters are still at the location in a trailer and are operating from there.

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes reported that recycling for March is consistent year to year at 213 tons. There is a slight decrease in average collected per day – 3% lower year to date.

Mr. Nunes discussed Amnesty Day, announcing that Shred-It, CyberYard.com and Worley Bro. Recycling will be participating at the Johnson Road location.

Mr. Nunes announced that the Mayor and City Attorney have signed inter-governmental agreement with Shelby County and now we are waiting for their signatures for the Household Hazardous Waste agreement that will cover three more years with the stipulation that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will continue to contribute their share but there is no anticipation of that fund being decreased. So, we are set for three more years at the current rate of \$15,000 per year. Germantown has exceeded other city averages while we are 4% of the households in Shelby County; we contribute in excess of 20% of the volume.

Mr. Nunes reported a meeting of the Shelby County Solid Waste Planning Board last week in preparation for the submission of the annual update of the solid waste plan for the State of Tennessee. The state has solid waste planning boards spread throughout the state. Shelby County does participate and each municipality has a representative from their city. The state of Tennessee did change their request for reporting in anticipation of the Solid Waste Disposal Act changes that are planned for later this year. They have changed some of their reporting and are asking for more information. I will bring more to the Commission after the next meeting.

Ken Adams – How many landfills are there in Shelby County?

Mr. Nunes – It depends on the classification of landfills. Class I and II (household waste) have two belonging to BFI. I'm unsure how many Class III and IV (construction, demolition and tree debris) landfills there are in the area.

Ken Adams – Tim mentioned last month that the City may be receiving money back from the recycling agencies. Is this accurate?

Joe Nunes – We actually have a \$2,000 per month income right now from FCR and are working on a 5 year contract to guarantee the flow of recycled materials. To clarify this is only the cost for disposal. The City is still paying for collection.

Linda Kaplan – Can we market recycling more now that we are receiving income from it?

Joe Nunes – I will talk to Stacey Ewell about marketing that.

Joe Nunes reported on Much Day with 278 vehicles and we did run out of mulch having to turn 15-20 residents away.

Joe Nunes reported on behalf of Tim Bierdz:
The storm water fee will be on utility bills this month – April 8th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Andy Foster – Energy Use Resource Management:

Mr. Foster had nothing to report.

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Dr. Davis announced that Arbor Day was very nice and well organized and the location was perfect.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld had nothing to report

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan discussed the sanctioned events that Shelby Farms is doing alongside the celebration of Earth Day on April 25th, had now been made an event lasting from April 16th through the 25th. Eco Expo was asked to participate as a sanctioned event. We are working as quickly as possible to pull it together. We initially had 85 people lined up for the Expo that was cancelled in January so we expect a good number of them will return for this event.

Susan Threlkeld – Will the Commission participate?

Susan Threlkeld and Ken Adams volunteered to participate.

The address is 1376 E. Massey Road on April 18th 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ms. Kaplan attended an open house of a LEED renovated manufacturing plant. Countertops were made of recycled glass and concrete and that vendor will be participating in the Eco Expo.

Judy Goden – Water Conservation:

Ms. Goden visited Dallas, TX over the weekend and went to an Arboretum and was curious if the City of Germantown had anything like this?

Oaklawn Gardens is in the process of creating one with Master Gardeners. Marking the trees is controversial but there should be a paper guide describing trees or some other form.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amnesty Dumpster Day sign-up sheet was circulated once again and members reminded of their times.

OLD BUSINESS:

Andy Foster had inquired last month about establishing sub-committee for Animal Control and Bo has spoken with the Mayor and Alderman Palazzolo and they have concluded that a sub-committee is just not necessary at this time nor in the prevue of the Commission. One of the things we did talk about that was positive was establishing a 3x5 card that we could put with the Animal Control adoption contract paperwork explaining how animal feces could affect stormwater. Tim Bierdz is working on that now and I am hoping to have Urania assist in putting that together.

Andy Foster voiced his concern for the support of the officers.

Mr. Mills stated that we do have a lot of support with 486 volunteers within the community.

Ms. Goden inquired on paint on Amnesty Day. Where do we take paint?

Mr. Mills offered information on the Household Hazardous Waste Facility which is open on Tuesday and Saturday – 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 6:50 p.m.