

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
March 3, 2011 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
David Thorpe
Dr. Jimmy Davis
Brandy Miller

Clyde Davidson
Linda Kaplan
Urania Erskine
Alderman Palazzolo

Staff

Joe Nunes
Bo Mills
Juanita Bell

Absent: Andy Foster and Moya Fulbright-Dent

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

The Commission welcomes Mr. Ken Adams is a recurring visitor of the Commission.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the January 2011 meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes reported that recycling volume is consistent with last year. Mr. Adams asked how accurate the weighing and charging of the waste actually is. Mr. Nunes explained that the collector is weighed at the gate and they get a ticket stating the weight of the material. The invoice and check that is received also has the weight listed so there is a check and balance system. The projected revenue this year from recycling alone is \$50,000. Next year, we are estimating \$60,000-\$70,000. FCR recently sold to another company but they are not anticipating any changes in the short term. Single stream collection is pending City of Memphis approval. Our collection contract will go before the Board of Mayor and Alderman on Tuesday, April 25th for approval.

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills reported that the contract with Landmark Construction for renovation of the Southern Avenue Water Plant was approved for \$2,499,600. With this renovation, an additional 100,000 gallons of water will be recycled in a settling basin that was earlier sent down the storm drain. The lighting will be replaced with more environmentally friendly fixtures designed to conserve resources.

Mr. Mills reported that Mr. Lawton met with the Board of Mayor and Alderman in January to work out the policy agenda for the FY12 fiscal year which will begin July 1, 2011 and included in this agenda is a more environmentally responsible focus: "The City of Germantown will support efforts to reduce green house emissions and use alternative energy sources. The City's efforts are in place to protect our drinking water and aquifer. The solid waste management practices exist to reduce the amount of refuse entering the waste stream." Efforts are in place to protect our rivers and streams from non-point sources of pollution to our waterways. From this policy agenda cabinets are being created. Joe and I have served on the Community Vitality cabinet. Now there will be an Environmental Quality cabinet. All departments will have members as a part of the Cabinets and we will be working on these directives from our Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mr. Thorpe inquired if the replaced light fixtures would be fluorescent and warned that, when removing those fixtures and bulbs, they should be very careful because the older fixtures have PCB in the ballast and should be disposed of properly. The bulbs contain mercury. The bulbs will be recycled through the City.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brandy Miller – Education:

Ms. Miller reported that she will be presenting at Farmington on March 11th at 8:30 a.m. Ms. Miller is still confident that she will present at Dogwood in the coming months.

David Thorpe – Air Quality:

Mr. Thorpe reported that every ten years the EPA has to issue a report on the programs that they have implemented and how effective and cost efficient they are. Recently they issued a report on the impact of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. They took a look at the impact in 2010 which was 20 years after the amendments were passed. Last year, the rules from 1990 prevented 160,000 adult deaths and 230 infant mortalities through particulate dust. Mortality from ozone was 4,300. It prevented 54,000 cases of chronic bronchitis, 130,000 cases of Heart Disease, 1,700,000 cases of Asthma Exacerbation, 86,000 emergency room visits and also prevented 3,200,000 school day losses and 13,000,000 work day losses. So, these rules really do have a positive impact. The projected savings for the year 2020 is even higher. In the year 2020, the cost

associated with the Clean Air Act amendments would be 65 billion but the benefits were estimated at 2 trillion dollars. A lot of those savings are related to savings on healthcare.

Urania Erskine – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Ms. Erskine read an article regarding fecal matter in stormwater and how hard it is to pinpoint. Some communities are now using trained dogs to locate the sources of entry due to their heightened sense of smell.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld had nothing to report.

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan reported that in October 2010 a new feature began called “How Green Is Your Listing?”. MAAR is pleased to announce the development of a green features checklist to identify green features and certifications on homes in the MLS system. This is going on all over the United States. You can now access it from a yes/no green feature on the main portion of the listing. Many agents don’t know about it yet but as time goes on, it should become more and more popular with builders and agents. Ms. Kaplan reported that there are guidelines for installation in walls but inspections of this are not mandatory and are often overlooked. Ms. Kaplan presented an article for “Project Green Fork” which has recycled 447,000 gallons of glass/aluminum/plastic, almost 500,000 pounds of cardboard paper and have turned 73,005 gallons of food waste into compost.

Another article stated that the midtown Huey’s restaurant will be going green.

Ms. Kaplan announced that her first experience in working a Home Show is coming up at the Agri Center is with the Home Builders Association is going to have a green section so that companies that want to concentrate more on the green section can work through that section. Another realtor and Ms. Kaplan will be sharing a booth. They will be giving away a gift certificate for a Green Fork restaurant of the winner’s choice.

Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Mr. Davidson had nothing to report

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Dr. Davis attended the Tennessee Yards and Neighbor’s Workshop which was held in Collierville. It was a great introduction to having an environmentally friendly yard. Everyone received gift bags with rain gauges and a gift certificate for two free soil samples among other small gifts. They spoke about the ten principles you look at when designing your yard and turf grass management. Tim spoke on stormwater strategies and they had rain barrels there. They had the pervious material that you can now put on parking lots in place of concrete that water soaks through. Lakeland did their City Hall parking lot in his material and although expensive, it is impressive that water runs right through and avoids run-off.

Ms. Threlkeld mentioned that the Botanic Garden has this material in their Earth Garden exhibit.

Moya Fulbright-Dent – Water Conservation:

Juanita Bell presented Ms. Fulbright-Dent’s report in her absence. It included water conservation tips, some of which were visiting car washes that use recycled water, when cleaning out fish tanks, use the nutrient rich water into the toilet bowl, keep a bucket in shower to catch water as it warms up and use that water to flush toilets of water plants and have a plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer line if your city code allows for this (out City Ordinance did not allow this.). Ms. Fulbright-Dent also thanked Bo for taking the time to educate her about our water supply here in Germantown and all that goes into monitoring and maintaining it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley reminded the Commission about the Living Green in Germantown Expo on Friday, March 5th. Mulch Day will be March 26th. Dr. Davis mentioned that mounds of mulch around trees are not healthy because it holds the moisture against the tree and weakens the trunk. Also, wind damages it more easily and the molds debark it.

Amnesty Day will be held Saturday, April 16th and sign-up sheet was distributed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 6:50 p.m.