

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
November 3, 2011 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER**

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Brandy Miller
Linda Kaplan
Moya Fulbright-Dent
Andy Foster

Clyde Davidson
Alderman Palazzolo
Dr. Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
David Thorpe

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes

Absent:

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the October meeting were approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

Two representatives from the University of Memphis, Ground Water Institute, Dan Larson (Interim Associate Director of Ground Water) and Brian Waldron (Associate Director of Ground Water), discussed ground water testing within the area including Collierville, Bartlett, Memphis and other cities and how that affected our water sources. Age dating of the water to determine recharge timing was discussed. Mr. Larson is conducting sampling at our Johnson Road Water Treatment Plant to determine water quality as related to the Collierville Smalley – Piper contamination. Several of the Commission members ask questions of the two guests. Opportunities exist to seek assistance from the GWI to assist with education in support of our fourth graders program as well as for other commissions, boards or meetings throughout the City.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes reported that recycling volume is slightly up from last year. Carts are still in short supply in some areas but we have ordered them. There is still some confusion in routes and some delays but things are smoothing out.

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills reported that the Southern Avenue Treatment Plant renovation is nearing 50% completion. Hopefully we will have a roof within the next ten days.

Also, the first Environmental Quality Cabinet quarterly report session will be held on November 7th so I will be able to share some information by the beginning of next year. Fuel and electric conservation, recycling participation increases, establishing natural resources management plans are all things we will be looking into and I will be able to report back on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Dr. Davis reported about the nuclear reactors in Japan which are flaring up again. They were supposed to be completely cold by the end of the year but they are still detecting radioactive xenon in the air which has a very short half life so it means it's constantly being produced. The latest report is they have produced about half the radiation that Fukushima did. Currents in the ocean are currently carrying all the debris from that tsunami traveling towards the United States and should be here by 2014.

Urania Erskine – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Mrs. Erskine announced that the Senior Expo had a great turn-out. Mrs. Erskine also reported that in Europe they have these new robot lawn mowers that are sold at local hardware stores like Home Depot and you start them up and let them go. Also, Home Depot type stores are selling "Bug Motels" due to extinction of bees and bugs.

Brandy Miller – Education:

Ms. Miller, Susan and Tim went October 12th to Riverdale and spoke to 140 students.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld said that she got a lot of requests for mulch at Senior Expo day but there was a handout stating that due to excess mulch, citizens were still invited to come get some at the Public Services Complex.

Moya Fulbright-Dent – Water Conservation:

Ms. Fulbright-Dent apologized for her absences these past couple of months. While cleaning out her grandmother's attic, she found organic gardening books of which she shared with the Commission.

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan mentioned an article that stated carbon emissions down 7% during the past four years which coal emissions dropped 10% and oil emissions dropped 11%. It does go on to say that gasoline is down over the last four years in consumption. Michael Bloomberg announced a 50 million dollar commitment to a coal-alternative energy campaign. Over the last four years, 400 wind farms totaling 27,000 megawatts have come online. Texas, the biggest oil producing state is now the leading generator of from wind-produced energy.

Andy Foster – Energy Use Resource Management:

Andy Foster announced that Cracker Barrel will install the rapid charge stations for electric cars that can give an 80% charge in an hour.

Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Mr. Davidson discussed that electric mills were used by Barnhill's Dairy and used electric vehicles in the early 1930's.

David Thorpe – Air Quality:

Mr. Thorpe reported that TVA has approved installing SO2 scrubbers on the Allen Coe Plant in town so that will reduce our SO2 emissions by 90 to 95%. I'm not sure how this will affect Shelby County but we will see. We're actually looking to install a dry scrubber vs. a wet scrubber due to environmental issues. Recently, the EPA was looking to lower the ozone standard which is currently at 75ppb, and was looking to drop it down to the 60-70 ppb range. They did announce that they were not going to change it and would look at it again in 2013. Also the EPA had basically approved the Clean Air Interstate rule (CASPER) which would've reduced several pollutants but they wanted the numbers reduced within a year and they received multiple comments that basically said that wasn't enough time so the EPA will re-review the comments and are in a holding period now. Shelby and Crittenden County measured 77 ppb this year which is non-attainment.

Mr. Thorpe reported that 30% of our ozone and 40% of mercury is coming from other countries and are blowing in.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley distributed a sign-up sheet for the upcoming Holiday party at Mrs. Threlkeld's house. Mrs. Moya Fulbright-Dent reminded the Commission that Leadership Germantown is taking applications.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 7:15 p.m. noting that the next meeting will be held at Ms. Threlkeld's home as a Christmas Party for the Commission. As everyone was leaving, Mr. Mills reminded everyone to reapply to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for reappointment to the Commission. The deadline is December 1.