

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, July 8, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Claudio Meier
Gene Phillips
Scott Schoefnacker
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

STAFF:

Alderman Jon McCreery
Scott Ballentine (NPC Liaison)
Tiffany Howlett
Steven Levy (PC Liason)
Bo Mills

ABSENT:

Chairman Joe Skelley
Terri Johnson
Francoise Mireles

CALL TO ORDER:

Bo Mills called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:

A quorum for the Environmental Commission meeting was established.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

A motion was made to accept the Minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL:

Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Meier-yes, Phillips-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Wagh-yes.
Motion approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Alderman McCreery:

- Alderman McCreery briefly discussed the approval of state mandates for air pollution control by the BMA. This brings the city's Air Pollution Control Code in compliance with the state's regulations.
- A Stormwater Board is in the process of being formed and should be effective next calendar year.
- The FY 22 budget was approved by the BMA and substantial funding will be allocated to stormwater management, a significant increase from previous fiscal years. Additionally, part of the CARES Act money that the City of Germantown will receive, another \$4 million dollars will go towards stormwater improvements.

Bo Mills:

- In addition to Alderman McCreery's remarks, Director Mills further explained the adoption of the Tennessee Environment and Conservation Air Pollution Control Regulations was necessary to continue to receive state funding.
- The speed limit on minor streets in residential neighborhoods will be lowered to '25 mph'. The Public Works department is a key part of this change as the maintenance and creation of speed limit signage is performed by the Streets Department. Crew members are in the process of taking down signage, and over the next few months, administrative staff will work to strategically place the new signage. This resolution will allow for safer neighborhoods.
- Through the budget approval process, \$100,000 was allocated to Park Maintenance. The money will be used to refurbish baseball fields, fencing and improvements on drainage, as well as building improvements.
- Public Works was notified by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that a Sanitary Survey would be conducted for the water treatment plants this month.

Scott Ballentine:

- Piggybacking off of the amended ordinance, Commissioner Ballentine questioned the safety of cyclists on the road and what regulations they must abide by. As a liaison of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission, Alderman McCreery said he would take Commissioner Ballentine's concerns before the commission.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Susan Threlkeld:

- With the recent change in speed limit, Commissioner Threlkeld asked if Google Maps could be contacted to update limits and to not route traffic through residential neighborhoods.

Claudio Meier:

- As a civil engineer, Commissioner Meier discussed the importance of a speed limit reduction. He explained that the facts on the impact of being hit by a car at 50 kilometers per hour would result in death, but at 40 kph or 25 mph the person had a higher survival rate.
- Commissioner Meier read a recent article on the heat wave in British Columbia. He went on to explain that atmospheric scientists have concluded that this type of event could not have happened 50 years ago. Scientists are still analyzing the relationship between weather related events and climate change.

Jayu Wagh:

- Commissioner Wagh discussed COVID-19's impact on disposable utensils.

Urania Erskine:

- With regard to food and food waste, Commissioner Erskine discovered there are numerous non-profits in the area picking up foods from grocery stores because there is a need in the community.

Jimmy Davis:

- Commissioner Davis recently read an article concerning a bio-based solution that would reduce Spandex's carbon footprint. This process would involve engineering organisms to create a chemical building block, leading to more sustainably.

Scott Schoefnacker:

- Following the discussion on the Byhalia Pipeline cancellation, Commissioner Schoefnacker shared with commission members that a few pipelines already exist in the area.

Gene Phillips:

- Commissioner Phillips provided insight on electric vehicles and how they receive their charge. With an increasing demand in environmentally friendly vehicles, he asked whether Germantown could benefit from a Supercharger station.

Steven Levy:

- Having a real estate background, Commissioner Levy spoke highly of the standards Germantown strives for in growth and development. He is very impressed with the professional level of staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Mills shared with commission members some additional information about the small water tower tank. He shared the importance of the tank, the installation timeline of the new tank at Forest Hill, and the timing of making a recommendation before the BMA. Director Mills plans to have a full report to share next meeting.

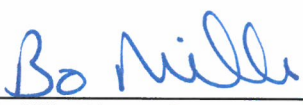
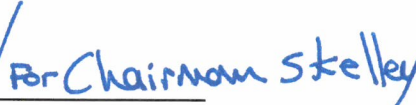
There was a brief discussion on cell phone towers in the area. Director Mills discussed issues that could arise from a potential cell phone carrier placing an antenna on the new water tower.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made to adjourn by Jimmy Davis, seconded by Jayu Wagh.

ROLL CALL: Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Meier-yes, Phillips-yes, Schofernacker-yes, Threlkeld-yes, Wagh- yes.
Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

 / 
Bo Mills, Director Public Works

