

Environmental Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Urania Erskine
Francoise Mireles
Claudio Meier
Gene Phillips
Scott Schoefnacker
Chairman Joe Skelley
Susan Threlkeld

STAFF:

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

ABSENT:

Jimmy Davis
Terri Johnson
Joe Nunes (Neighborhood Services)
Jayu Wagh

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 July 8, 2021 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Claudio Meier.

ROLL CALL:

Erskine-yes, Mireles-yes, Meier-yes, Phillips-yes, Schoefnacker-yes, Skelley-yes, Threlkeld-yes.
Motion approved.

ALDERMAN LIAISON REPORT:

Alderman McCreery:

- Alderman McCreery confirmed \$4,000,000 of the \$5,000,000 received each year over the next two years will go towards stormwater improvements.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills:

- Director Mills shared with the commission details of the upcoming bid for the new water tower. Three major players in the tank construction business attended a pre-bid meeting and have inquired about the specifics of the new tank. Their questions were addressed with addendums to their bid packets. Director Mills expressed positivity for the new water tank and is thankful to the commission for their support over the years for an additional elevated tank in Germantown.
- Director Mills distributed a flyer regarding the small water tank. It included a report from a tank consultant who expressed no market value for an older 75,000 gallon riveted tank and included information about maintenance costs to keep the small water tank in service.
- Commissioner Erskine asked Director Mills if there was possible revenue for adding cell towers to the small water tank. Director Mills responded yes but that any revenue received would go into the General Fund. Commissioner Erskine voiced her concern for the costs associated with a mural painted water tank that has an obstructed view. She also expressed that if the small water tank was to be painted, not everyone would like the artwork in place.
- There was discussion among commission members for the possible removal of the small water tank after the new tank is in full service. It was verbalized that all alternatives had been researched and a motion was made and voted on unanimously by the commission for Alderman McCreery to take this recommendation before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.
- Director Mills let commission members know that Amnesty Day scheduled for September would be canceled due to an increase in COVID-19 cases.

Scott Ballentine:

- NPC Commissioner Ballentine asked the commission if they knew how many beehives were allowed for residents. Commissioner Erskine mentioned that state government allows four beehives.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS:

Claudio Meier:

- Commissioner Meier discussed the impact of climate change. According to the Sixth Assessment Report published by the IPCC, there is proven data to support human influence on rapid and widespread changes occurring in the atmosphere and at sea level.
 - [AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)

Francoise Mireles:

- Commissioner Mireles expanded upon the climate change discussion by sharing with the commission her observations of the Riverdale Elementary drop off and pick up car line. She expressed that while in line, several cars were in an idle position and there is research to support it is not ideal for the environment or for children. Commission members will work to bring education and awareness about air quality control in Germantown.

Urania Erskine:

- Commissioner Erskine had nothing to report.

Susan Threlkeld:

- Commissioner Threlkeld shared with the commission a discovery she had learned. She recently read that MLGW will inspect poles for rotted wood and will fill it with a paste to try to preserve the wood. The average

cost of a new pole is \$5,000. Commissioner Threlkeld also asked the commission if they knew of the best way to discard of a fire extinguisher or of a place that could recharge it.

Scott Schoeferacker:

- Commissioner Schoeferacker addressed the new City of Memphis Wellhead Protection Plan. It will be similar to the City of Germantown and Town of Collierville's plan. This new Wellhead Protection Plan will include Shelby County. The plan will look at land use and well protection ordinances in these areas.
- Commissioner Schoeferacker asked about street lights and if the City of Germantown pays for street lights. Alderman McCreery, who serves as a liaison for the Technology Commission, addressed Commissioner Schoeferacker's question by explaining that the city pays MLGW nearly a \$1,000,000 a year for power usage. He also mentioned the City of Germantown is working to transition to LED bulbs to reduce usage. The LED bulbs are about \$800 a light, but there are assistance programs within MLGW, state and federal government that can help offset these costs. There is current discussion on the best way to financially approach the transition.

Gene Phillips

- Commissioner Phillips briefly spoke on the trucking industry and its percentage of emissions into the environment.

Steven Levy:

- Commissioner Levy had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

With the recent cancellation of Amnesty Day, a motion was made by Commissioner Schoeferacker and seconded by Commissioner Meier and unanimously voted on by commission members to conduct a meeting on September 9, 2021 in place of Amnesty Day.

Commission members also unanimously voted to move the monthly Environmental Commission meeting from the second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday of the month beginning in January 2022.

Alderman McCreery shared with the commission that the Germantown Festival had been cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Unanimous motion was made to adjourn.

Erskine-yes, Mireles-yes, Meier-yes, Phillips-yes, Schoeferacker-yes, Skelley-yes, Threlkeld-yes.
Motion approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman