

Environmental Commission Meeting
Thursday, August 4, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Antonio Monaco
Gene Phillips
Scott Schoefnacker
David Smith
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

STAFF

Tiffany Howlett
Director Bo Mills
Alderman Jon McCreery

ABSENT

Michael McGinnis
Marissa Rogers (NPC Liaison)
Chairman Joe Skelley

CALL TO ORDER

Director 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 2, 2022 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL

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

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

- Alderman McCreery proposed an idea to modify the existing Environmental Commission to align with the strategic objectives set forth in the Germantown Forward 2035 plan. It would include a name change to the

Natural Resources Commission, an ordinance revision, and an updated mission statement. The modified commission would allow for a more broaden scope of purpose in addressing natural resource matters in Germantown.

- Important discussion among commission members followed Alderman McCreery's remarks. While not normally scheduled in September due to Amnesty Day, a meeting will occur on Thursday, September 1, 2022 to further discuss changes to the Environmental Commission and what those alterations may look like.

STAFF REPORTS

Director Bo Mills

- Director Mills shared progress on the new elevated water tank. To stabilize the foundation of the water tank, 60 ft deep piers were drilled into the ground this past week.
- Director Mills also shared an update on the Cameron Brown Park baseball complex. Work has begun to install artificial turf on the four infields. This new installation will allow for easier maintenance by crew as well as fewer rain outs and more play time for users.
- Public Works staff has been busy, but is still looking to hire a few vacancies.

Staff Liaison Tiffany Howlett

- Staff Liaison Howlett provided a brief update on solid waste collection and disposal.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

David Smith

- Commissioner Smith had nothing to report.

Antonio Monaco

- Commissioner Monaco had nothing to report.

Jayu Wagh

- Commissioner Wagh shared with the commission a written news article that warns of potential air quality danger from a sterilization company in South Memphis. The chemical, ethylene oxide that is used in the sterilization process may be hazardous to the health of nearby residents as it is emitted into the air.

- <https://www.actionnews5.com/2022/08/04/epa-warns-some-memphians-about-potential-air-quality-danger/>

Susan Threlkeld

- Commissioner Threlkeld invited members of the commission to a Kiwanis Club meeting at the Pickering Center on Thursday, August 11, 2022, where Director Mills will be the guest speaker.

Urania Erskine

- Commissioner Erskine distributed handouts on water fluoridation research.

- Commissioner Erskine asked that the board consider the effects of water fluoridation.
 - **The commission will research the effects of water fluoridation, consider a recommendation, and will discuss the item at the meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2022.**

Gene Phillips

- Commissioner Phillips had nothing to report.

Jimmy Davis

- Commissioner Davis shared with the commission an article regarding the second-largest crude oil spill in Tennessee. This oil spill made its way into a nearby body of water calling for an immediate response from federal agencies.
 - <https://wpln.org/post/tennessee-just-had-its-second-largest-crude-oil-spill-ever-with-200000-gallons-leaking-into-rural-town/>

Scott Schoefnacker

- Commissioner Schoefnacker recently attended a groundwater summit at the University of Memphis. He shared with the commission upcoming research and work that would be conducted in the area relating to aquifer recharging and geophysics.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commission members signed up to volunteer at an assigned Amnesty Day location on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

A meeting will take place on Thursday, September 1, 2022 to discuss water fluoridation and modifications to the Environmental Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Joe Skelley, Commission Chairman