

Environmental Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 3, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Jimmy Davis
Urania Erskine
Antonio Monaco
Marissa Rogers (NPC Liaison)
Scott Schoefnacker
Chairman Joe Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Jayu Wagh

STAFF

Tiffany Howlett
Alderman Jon McCreery
Director Bo Mills

ABSENT

Michael McGinnis
Gene Phillips
David Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Skelley 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 October 4, 2022 meeting by Urania Erskine and seconded by Susan Threlkeld.

ROLL CALL

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

ALDERMAN LIAISON COMMENTS

- Alderman McCreery shared a brief BMA update with the commission members and opened the floor for any questions.

STAFF REPORTS

- Director Mills gave an update on the elevated water tank, the grounds department, and touched on a recently published aquifer report from CAESER.
- Staff Liaison Howlett shared with the commission that Public Works recently hosted a group of middle school students from Our Lady of Perpetual Help for a sustainably day. Next month, the sanitation division will visit Houston High School and speak on the topic of recycling. Public Works was also approved for a recycling rebate from TDEC in the amount of \$4,368 that will help offset the cost of Amnesty Day in the spring.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

- Commission members Davis, Wagh, Monaco, and Schoefernacker did not have anything to report.
- Commissioner Threlkeld had recently read about microplastics left behind from Mr. Clean Magic Eraser, a household sponge cleaner, use. These micro plastics can be harmful to the environment. She also mentioned tires can be another source of microplastics.
- Commissioner Erskine shared with the commission an article from Greenpeace on statistics related to plastic breakdown and recycling. At a future meeting, the commission will discuss the City's recycling efforts and where improvements can be made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Commission members will discuss water fluoridation further at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting. It will remain an agenda item until a motion is made by the commission.
 - a. Commissioner Schoefernacker invited guest speaker Dr. Titu, an Assistant Professor from the Division of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Environmental Health at the University of Memphis, to speak on the subject of water fluoridation. Dr. Titu attended the meeting and provided insight into the subject of water fluoridation. He presented well researched facts and data on the subject matter. The commission will continue to welcome experts on this matter to future meetings and will decide at a later date whether to make a recommendation to the Board.
- b. Important discussion among commission members took place regarding Environmental Commission modifications. Commission members and staff provided valuable input in how they would like to see these proposed modifications take shape.

By aligning the Environmental Commission with the strategic and operational goals of the Germantown Forward 2035 Natural Resources section, the proposed amendments would allow for an expansion of the objectives and current mission statement of the Environmental Commission.

The third and final reading of this modification will appear before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on Monday, November 14. If the reading passes, the Environmental Commission will be known as the Natural Resources Commission.

- c. Staff and commission members will meet at Commissioner Threlkeld's home for their December meeting.
- d. The deadline to re-apply for the Natural Resources Commission is Wednesday, November 30. Commission members were each provided with a secure e-link to access their application.
- e. Following a change in ordinance, we will now meet as the Natural Resources Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to report.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

ROLL CALL

Davis-yes, Erskine-yes, Monaco-yes, Schoefernacker-yes, Skelley-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