

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

August 5, 2010 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Joe Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
Dr. Jimmy Davis
Clyde Davidson

Brandy Miller
Linda Kaplan
Urania Erskine
Alderman Palazzolo

Staff

Bo Mills
Joe Nunes
Juanita Bell

Absent: Judith Goden, Andy Foster, David Thorpe

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Joe Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the July meeting were approved with one correction to the spelling of Ms. Judy Goden's name.

STAFF REPORTS:

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills thanked Susan Threlkeld for participating in the MLGW event at the library in which she promoted Water Conservation on July 7th. Also Ms. Threlkeld did some planting at "Everybody's Tree House" in Riverdale Park which is scheduled to open August 9, 2010.

Mr. Mills reported that the highest day of water consumption last week was fourteen million which is pretty reasonable considering the heat.


Mr. Mills reported that there is currently an army worm infestation on every athletic field within Germantown and that surrounding municipalities are having the same problems.

Mr. Mills reported that pending the Board of Mayor and Alderman approval, Public Services will be adding 1.43 acres of land to its property.

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes presented a slide show on the upcoming competitive proposal for household and yard waste removal as well as recycling introducing multiple options for each service. Mr. Nunes stated that there will be a street survey in Germantown to see which option is more popular and contractors will be coming next week to discuss a system which would weigh garbage and scan it in. The current contracts will end on June 30, 2011. The Commission agreed that yard waste should be limited as well as resident generated construction debris with the option of a 2nd pickup at an additional charge.



Dr. Davis inquired as to whether anyone is accepting  yet? Mr. Nunes stated that we are currently accepting bottles of that kind but nothing else. Ms. Kaplan stated that Whole Foods will accept anything in that category.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Mr. Davidson had nothing to report.

Urania Erskine – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Ms. Erskine presented an article from the Commercial Appeal and one from the Wall Street Journal, both discussing storm drainage.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld discussed the MLGW give-away that she participated in on July 7th and presented the MLGW Conservation Kit which was being distributed.

Ms. Threlkeld presented a book called Bringing Nature Home which discusses the benefits of planting native plants to create the proper habitat for native animals.

Ms Threlkeld reported for Brandy Miller that Ms. Miller will be forwarding the letter for the schools to Bo Mills for review.

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan discussed a recent trip to Los Angeles in which she traveled through multiple states using Wind Farms and solar panels along I-40. The most prevalent were Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. Also, there is a new government grant for the installation of solar panels and "Green" building. Ms. Kaplan will email further information on this grant.

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Dr. Davis reported on the Gulf Oil Spill which is on Day 108. Static Kill has sealed the well and they will drill and concrete it to completely kill it. There is some controversy about how much oil is actually in the Gulf and ¼ of the oil is still out there. Even the amount still there exceeds the size of Exxon Valdez by five times. Dr. Davis mentioned that in Germany, there is currently a problem with radioactive wild boars due to the explosion of Chernobyl in 1986.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Skelley announced that Amnesty Day will be held on September 18th and the Senior Expo will be November 4th. Sign-up sheets will be passed around in the September meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 7:30 p.m.