

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

November 4, 2010 6 PM

MUNICIPAL CENTER

### MINUTES

#### **Present**

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Susan Threlkeld  
David Thorpe  
Clyde Davidson  
Andy Foster

Brandy Miller  
Linda Kaplan  
Urania Erskine  
Alderman Palazzolo  
Sandra Hayne

#### **Staff**

Bo Mills  
Tim Bierdz  
Joe Nunes  
Juanita Bell

**Absent:** Dr. Jimmy Davis & Judith Goden

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Bo Mills:**

Mr. Mills reminded the Commission to R.S.V.P. to the Commission Dinner as soon as possible. The dinner will be held on Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Commission was also invited to Public Service's annual cook-out, which will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Tanner Pavilion Horse Show Grounds.

Mr. Mills announced that the Board of Mayor and Alderman is scheduled to approve a Proclamation declaring November 15<sup>th</sup> as America Recycle Day. This is a celebration nationwide. The Commission discussed and agreed to present a Vera Bradley bag to the Mayor in appreciation for her environmental consciousness at the Board of Mayor and Alderman meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mills reported that due to an insect building its nest inside a well generator, it caused \$6,750.66 of damage.

##### **Joe Nunes:**

Mr. Nunes reported that the recycling numbers for October were down 10% from last year. The recycling average for tons per average working day is down 4%. The Solid Waste Disposal and Collection contract for FY12 is progressing and should be completed in the coming weeks.

Mr. Nunes suggested that the Commission consider contacting the Memphis Grizzlies to assist in promoting recycling after reading about the Dallas Mavericks working with youth in their area.

##### **Tim Bierdz:**

Mr. Bierdz reported that the stormwater fee was implemented without any problems and calls regarding the fee have been manageable. One new project coming up will be the Wolf River Boulevard connection from Farmington to Kimbrough. Mr. Bierdz will be testing the stormwater throughout the construction process for nitrate, silt, bod (biological oxygen demands), and tmd (total maximum daily loads) and other things. The Audubon Society will also be watching over the project and Germantown hopes to achieve a silver certification with the Society.

##### **Alderman Palazzolo:**

Alderman Palazzolo thanked the Commission members who worked the Senior Expo and Amnesty Day.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **Brandy Miller – Education:**

Ms. Miller reported Tim, Susan and she had completed a recycling presentation at Riverdale School for 150 children. They are currently waiting to hear back from Germantown Elementary.

##### **Urania Erskine – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:**

Ms. Erskine received a Shelby County Tag Renewal notice with stormwater ads on the envelope. Also, the United States Botanical Gardens and the Ladybird Johnson Wildlife Center have set up a website called "landscapeforlife" for homeowners and professional landscapers.

Ms. Erskine recently went overseas and reports back that the local Farmer's Co-Op carries sophisticated environmental information for homes and businesses.

##### **Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:**

Ms. Threlkeld spoke with a member of the Collierville Environmental Commission regarding some of their issues and discussions. Collierville is doing the Cornell bird count and identifying types of native trees in the City. Ms. Threlkeld invited the Commission to join her at a Collierville meeting.

Ms. Threlkeld attended an “Auntie Litter” campaign this past weekend which is directed towards school age children and is very interesting. Also, the Environmental Sustainability meeting was held locally and some of the topics were backyard trash removal and the storm drain medallions.

**Linda Kaplan – Think Green:**

Ms. Kaplan attended the first “Green” Festival held in Memphis. One of the businesses promoted there was “Get Green Recycling” business which is a company that picks up business recycling on an as needed basis. Also, some information was given on Memphis’ E-Recycle program which will be held November 15<sup>th</sup>. Multiple departments from the City of Memphis were promoted. A small Company called Wolf River Honey was there with local honey. MATA was there with their 12 hybrid buses and announced replacement of more of their buses in the future.

Ms. Kaplan presented an article that discussed alternative ways of sewage disposal and reuse.

\*Chairman Skelley had to leave the meeting at this point and Bo Mills took over.

**Clyde Davidson – Storm/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:**

Mr. Davidson recognized the City staff on Amnesty Day for their hard work.

**Andy Foster – Energy Use Resource Management:**

Andy Foster announced that FedEx has opened a hub in Cologne, France. This is the second hub to be of solar power and fifth facility within the company. This hub is the most modern and has a fully automated sorting system that can process 18,000 packages/documents per hour and represents one of the largest rooftop solar installations in the area. London and Los Angeles is currently using all electric delivery vehicles reducing carbon emissions by 20% per available tone mile by 2020. There is also a 777 aircraft that can make it from Memphis to China without stopping.

Mr. Foster presented an article about vehicles that are being manipulated to be more performance driven. Ford Fiesta will get 40 miles per gallon and is not a hybrid.

**David Thorpe – Air Quality:**

Mr. Thorpe reported that the ozone standard should be lowered by December 31<sup>st</sup> to .070 parts per billion. The current standards are .075 ppb. The TVA is contemplating building a new power plant in Shelby County which will lower CO2 emissions and will run on gas/turbine combined cycle.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Brandy Miller inquired about the outcome of the water loss in Nottoway subdivision that was discussed a couple of months ago. Bo explained that administration had decided that no penalties would be served.

Mr. Foster inquired about traffic light timing. Mr. Bierdz and Mr. Mills explained that government grants are assisting in replacement of those lights with video detection and fiber links.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Mills announced that the December meeting will be held at Ms. Threlkeld’s house on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Mills reminded the Commission to reapply for the Commission soon.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Commission adjourned at 7:15 p.m.