

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING
February 3, 2011 6 PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER

MINUTES

Present

Chairman Skelley
Susan Threlkeld
David Thorpe
Dr. Jimmy Davis
Brandy Miller

Moya Fulbright-Dent
Linda Kaplan
Urania Erskine
Alderman Palazzolo

Staff

Joe Nunes
Bo Mills
Juanita Bell

Absent: Andy Foster and Clyde Davidson

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

The Commission welcomes Mr. Ken Adams is a recurring visitor of the Commission.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

The minutes of the January 2011 meeting were approved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Joe Nunes:

Mr. Nunes reported that recycling volume was up 12% for January and numbers are even for year to date. Patterns are predictable through all waste streams year to year. Staff has completed the analysis for the solid waste disposal bid and the low bidder was Waste Management. The analysis will be put online tomorrow. The results are not official until the Board of Mayor and Alderman approve that final contract. BFI has been our provider for 20+ years. Waste Management operates a transfer station in Memphis to a landfill in Tunica, MS. Mr. Nunes reported that the annual report for Shelby County Solid Waste Planning Board should be completed soon.

This year's Mulch Day will be held on March 26, 2011. Mr. Palazzolo inquired if Mulch Day could be held at C.O. Franklin Park. Mr. Nunes said he would check the calendar but there was usually a scheduling conflict with that location.

Bo Mills:

Mr. Mills reported on behalf of Tim Bierdz reminding the Commission that "Does Your Yard Measure Up?" workshop would be held on March 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Town of Collierville City Hall. Mr. Mills announced that the contract for the Wolf River Boulevard extension from Kimbrough around behind Cameron over to Farmington was approved today. Autobahn International will be involved in the design. This contract is the largest Public Works contract at 24.4 million dollars. Mr. Mills also announced the refurbishment of the Southern Avenue Water Plant. It is pending Board approval and we will be spending 2.5 million dollars to modernize and refurbish. Ms. Erskine – Will the fluoride recommendations from the United States Government meet Germantown's standards? Bo said we are currently meeting the states requirements and are converting from gas chlorine to liquid chlorine.

Alderman Palazzolo:

Alderman Palazzolo requested that the Commission assist in bringing attention to the projects within the City that are not "popular" in the public's eyes but are necessary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jimmy Davis – Research:

Dr. Davis gave an update on the flu. There are currently three types of the flu virus: A, B, and C. Seasonal epidemics are caused by human influenza A and B viruses. Type C viruses cause mild respiratory illnesses. Influenza A viruses are divided into two subtypes based on the proteins on the surface of the virus, designated H and N. There are 16 H subtypes and 9 N subtypes. Current influenza A subtypes found in people are influenza A (H1N1), influenza A (H3N2). In spring 2009, a new influenza A (H1N1) virus emerged which is commonly called 2009 H1N1 or swine flu. The current flu vaccine provides protection against 2009 H1N1, human H3N2 and influenza B. In the flu viruses reported so far, about 80% were influenza A and 20% influenza B. Within the influenza A viruses reported, 64% were H3N2 and 36% were 2009 H1N1. As of January 22, nine states reported high influenza-like illness activity: Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Virginia. The flu vaccine covers whatever flu is currently active for that year.

Susan Threlkeld inquired about how long the flu shot protects? Dr Davis reported that the shot protects for several years against flu viruses.

Susan Threlkeld – Composting/Xeriscape:

Ms. Threlkeld reported that she represented the Commission at the Eco Expo and one of the door prizes was a “I’m not a paper towel” towel which was received well. A salesman approached Ms. Threlkeld promoting a device that you attach to the engine that claims a 30% increase in efficiency. Also, a salesman discussed the Evapo Transportation Rate.

Ms. Threlkeld distributed the Talk of the Town in which there was an ad stating that Germantown residents could take their used batteries to fire station III for recycling.

Urania Erskine – Storms/Wetlands/Sanitary Sewer:

Ms. Erskine stated that she attended to Eco Expo and was impressed with it. Ms. Erskine inquired about attendance. Ms. Kaplan stated that attendance was estimated between 550-600 people.

Brandy Miller – Education:

Ms. Miller reported that she has contacted Farmington and will hopefully hear back soon. Ms. Miller will go to Dogwood and introduce herself hoping to schedule something in the coming weeks.

Ms. Miller would like to know the date for the Business Expo.

Ms. Miller announced that the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs will be having their state convention meeting here. The event will be called “Clean and Green in Memphis” and will be held at Hilton in Memphis at the end of April. Can Germantown provide anything to add to the bags that will be handed out to all attendees?

Mr. Nunes said he would look into stock and see if they could provide something.

David Thorpe – Air Quality:

Mr. Thorpe reported that we had 13 code orange days in 2010. The worst months were May and October because the humidity was lower. The current ozone standard is 75 ppb (parts per billion). The new standards will be between 60-70 ppb possibly in 2012. If new attainment is dropped, many cities will fail.

Mr. Thorpe stated that there will be new air pollution monitors installed at Shelby Farms within three months. It will be the closest monitor to Germantown.

Moya Fulbright-Dent – Water Conservation:

Ms. Fulbright-Dent is to meet with Bo to discuss what has been done regarding Water Conservation and to give direction for future plans. Ms. Fulbright-Dent also suggested a possible speaker for the Commission that had assisted in a display in the Big Back Yard at the Botanical Gardens.

Brandy Miller inquired of the Commission regarding a field trip for sometime in the spring.

Linda Kaplan – Think Green:

Ms. Kaplan thanked the Commission for being involved in the Eco Expo and acknowledged that the fire station sent representatives to discuss the new LEED built fire station.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Nunes and Alderman Palazzolo announced the Town Hall meeting on Monday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. at GPAC regarding the school issues. The Mayor and Mr. Lawton will be in attendance and will be answering questions. Alderman Palazzolo urged Commission members to attend.

Alderman Palazzolo announced to the Commission that a law was recently enacted that forces the Federal government to pay storm water fees on federally owned land. Alderman Palazzolo invited the Commission to the groundbreaking of the Wolf River Boulevard project when that occurs.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Commission adjourned at 6:55 p.m.