

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING

March 1, 2012 6 PM

7700 Southern Avenue (Public Services Building)

### MINUTES

#### **Present**

Chairman Joe Skelley  
Susan Threlkeld  
David Thorpe  
Steve Fleischmann

Clyde Davidson  
Alderman Palazzolo  
Paul Mosteller

#### **Staff**

Bo Mills  
Joe Nunes  
Juanita Bell

**Absent:** Dr. Jimmy Davis, Urania Erskine, Andy Foster, Linda Kaplan

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

Chairman Skelley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### **MINUTES APPROVAL:**

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

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

Mr. Nunes updated the Commission on the short term RFP for the acceptance of recycled materials, effective today we have changed our processing facility to Recommunity from Rock Ten. Although the numbers have not come in for recycling for the month of February, the volume has been up for November, December and January. Mr. Nunes attended the Shelby County Solid Waste Planning Board meeting today and brought a copy of the 2011 Municipal report that was submitted on behalf of Germantown and is compiled by Shelby County who in turn submit a report to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (which Mr. Nunes also had a copy of the draft of this document) to distribute to the Commission. Mr. Nunes announced that Mulch Day will be on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Public Services Complex at 8:00 a.m. We will have 400 cubic yards to distribute and hope for better numbers this Spring.

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

Mr. Mills distributed a flyer announcing that Arbor Day is tomorrow, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, and we would be distributing trees (Dogwood, Willow Oaks and Poplar) and other vendors will be there also. It will be held at the old Schnucks.

Mr. Mills also distributed a flyer on behalf of Tim Bierdz for a Home Landscaping Workshop that will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> in the Blue Room of Neighborhood Services. Mr. Bierdz will be hosting this class. There will be some good speakers and lunch is included in the price of the workshop which is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple.

Mr. Mills updated the Commission on the Environmental Quality Cabinet which focused on fuel usage this month. The City maintains 279 rolling fleet, 179 static machines, 75 non-motorized pieces of equipment which all use gas/diesel fuel. We have set our target to reduce our usage by 3% by June 30, 2012. We are all looking for ways to reduce, including no idling, consolidating trips, adding more crew cab trucks to the fleet, and more electric/hybrid vehicles.

Mr. Mills updated the Commission on the Vehicle Maintenance design. The City did acquire the land and we are about 90% designed for the shop and are currently looking for grant money to assist us in our environmental effective actions that we are taking, including lighting, insulation, water management system, and looking into solar panels to power the charging station for vehicles. Mr. Reynold Douglas and I are going to Columbia, TN next Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, to attend a grant writing seminar to put this grant together and hopefully get some funding from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to help fund the environmental aspects. All total we will have 1.6 million dollars in building the maintenance shop and another \$400,000-\$500,000 in furnishings, totaling nearly \$2 million dollars invested in this state of the art shop. We hope to finish designing this year, construction next year and completion the following year.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Mrs. Threlkeld attended the Eco Expo and worked the Environmental Commission table. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> year for the Eco Expo and Mrs. Threlkeld brought brochures to distribute from some of the vendors there. The Harahan Bridge Project which is a project to build a pedestrian friendly walkway spanning the Mississippi River from Memphis, TN to West Memphis, AR and ReStore which is a Habitat for Humanity store in which offers to come pick up old appliances, furniture and home furnishings for free of charge were just two of the vendors exhibited at the Expo.

##### **Linda Kaplan – Think Green:**

Mrs. Kaplan announced the Best of Home Show will be held this weekend with additional efforts being made to include companies that are certified green. Its sponsored by the Memphis Home Builders Association.

Mrs. Kaplan thanked the Commission for sponsoring and participating in the Eco Expo. It was estimated that there were 1,000 attendees. There was Kosher food available from Holy Cow and we had Fuel Café, which is Green Fork certified, there. The electric car display was nice with a Nissan Leaf, two Honda hybrids, and the Chevrolet Volt. The Commission had good placement at the Show.

Mr. Mills announced that the Vesta Home Show will be held in Germantown, TN this year again in October at Saint James Place subdivision. There will be five certified energy star builders.

**David Thorpe – Air Quality:**

Mr. Thorpe presented an article from knoxnews.com titled “Solar Farm Under Construction at Agricenter”. Memphis is currently building one of the first solar tracking systems in the state on the Agricenter. “The \$4.3 million array should generate a megawatt of power, which would provide electricity to around 200 homes.” “For each kilowatt of electricity produced, it will receive a TVA subsidy of 0.12 cents above market rate.”

Bo announced that they were looking at adding solar panels to the Athletic Center.

Mr. Thorpe said TVA is focusing more on residential right now.

Mr. Thorpe also presented an article from Energy Central Professional titled “EIA sees natural gas, renewable taking electricity market share from coal.” “Use of renewable fuels and natural gas for electric power generation will rise over the next 25 years, largely at the expense of coal.” “The natural gas share of electric power generation will increase from 24% in 2010 to 27% in 2035, and the renewable share will grow from 10% to 16% over the same period, the agency said. At the same time, the projected coal share of overall electricity generation falls to 39%, well below the 49% share seen as recently as 2007.” “Nuclear’s share of electric power generation is expected to remain largely flat over the 2010-2035 period, declining slightly from 20% in 2010 to 18% in 2035, according to the 2012 outlook.” “US production of natural gas is expected to exceed consumption early in the next decade, EIA said. The United States is expected to become a net exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2016, a net pipeline exporter in 2025, and an overall net exporter of natural gas in 2021.” “Renewable energy consumption in the electric power sector is projected to grow from 1.4 quadrillion Btu in 2010 to 3.4 quadrillion Btu in 2035, with biomass accounting for 30% of the growth and wind 44%. Consumption of solar energy grows the fastest, but starting from a small base it will account for only a small share of the total in 2035, EIA said.” “Total US population will increase by 25% from 2010 to 2035, but energy use will grow by only 10%, according to the 2012 outlook.”

**Paul Mosteller – Water Conservation:**

Mr. Mosteller spoke about the Germantown Athletic Club having the largest carbon footprint and a company called “Green Revolution, Inc.” harnesses that energy from exercise equipment. Hopefully when they are looking to lease new equipment in the coming years, they will consider this equipment.

**Steve Fleischmann – Recycle/Household Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste:**

Nothing to report

**Clyde Davidson - Recycle/Household Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste:**

Nothing to report

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Miss Bell introduced the library books that would be presented to Mrs. Brandy Miller during April’s meeting. The six children’s books about recycling were bought with money donated by the Commission members and each book will have a plaque inside stating that the books were donated in Mrs. Miller’s honor.

Mr. Mills announced that Amnesty Day would be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. A sign-up sheet will go around next month. Mr. Nunes stated that the shredding company for this event has been changed and should be an easier transition.

Mr. Mills updated the Commission on the Bobby Lanier Farm Park. The pre-bid will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and the bid opening on March 19<sup>th</sup>. There is still a plan for a community garden in the spring. The Suburban Garden Club is assisting as well as many organizations to make this park happen. Access will be off Cloyes Soccer field. The house will eventually be used but not now. The hydrants are in and fire protection is working. A deer fence will be placed in the garden area. We have \$340,000 to establish this park and it is handicap accessible.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Commission adjourned at 6:37 p.m.