



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
January 5, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Sheron C. Patterson
Diane Benjamin
Cheryl S. Camin
Keith Kwoh
Sylvia Lagos
Linda Sharp
Susan R. Rader

Members Absent

Tad Heimbürger
Meredith McQuiston
David J. Metzler
Reginald Seastrunk
Mandy Valasek
Mary Warner
Kedra Williams

Staff Present

Kevin Lefebvre, OEQ
Dilip R. Shah, Assistant Director, EHS
Lilia V. Gonzalez, EHS

Public Present

None

Minutes

Ms. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. Minutes from the December 1, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

Obesity Update: Discussion on Dallas Area Restaurant/Menu Findings

Sheron C. Patterson, Chair

Dr. Sheron Patterson informed the commission that in the last meeting they had talked about obesity. One of the suggestions that were made was to look at area restaurants to see if there were any restaurants that offered in their menu information about calories or contents of food.

Ms. Cheryl Camin mentioned that Chili's and On the Border have a light menu section. She also mentioned that the gym she attends also has an entire menu that includes the fat content and calories for each item. Mrs. Rebecca Rader also mentioned that Subway and McDonald's also include calorie information.

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Mr. Dilip Shah, Assistant Director, Environmental Health Services Department, informed the commission that restaurant scores are put on the website once they are inspected. He informed the commission that the courts do not require the inspectors to regulate any dietary needs.

Mr. Shah suggested that Ahsan Khan, Manager of Food Protection and Education, meet with the commission and have a discussion. Dr. Patterson would like him to discuss how to recommend to the City Council that the restaurants in Dallas become more calorie conscious to help the citizens eat healthier by revealing their contents in calories.

Update on Letter in Support of the Idling Ordinance

Cheryl S. Camin, EHC

Ms. Camin gave a follow up on the letter that was to be mailed to have legislation put in place an expansion of the anti idling ordinance to be all year. She spoke to Brett Wilkerson, Director of Intergovernmental Services, who is working with a lobbyist for the city and was told that it is in process. They are trying to get the idling ordinance formalized into a bill. Once a sponsor for the bill has been found, then the letter would be sent to that particular person.

Dr. Patterson suggested that Ms. Camin update Councilwoman Linda Koop on the status of the idling ordinance letter.

Update on Mayoral Environmental Awards

Kevin Lefebvre, OEQ

Mr. Kevin Lefebvre informed the commission that 15 applications were turned in. Mr. Lefebvre asked for help in finding a person that would design the award. Mrs. Rader and Mrs. Benjamin agreed to help. Dr. Patterson asked that the people that agreed to help in finding an artist to be prepared to come to the meeting next month with their information.

Commission Reports

None

Staff Reports

Lilia Gonzales informed the commission that the Annual Report was due to the City Secretary's Office by March. The Annual Report for the previous year will be provided to all members. This item will be discussed in the February meeting.

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Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.