



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
April 6, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Tad Heimbürger
Kedra Williams
Sylvia Lagos
Meredith McQuiston
Rebecca Rader
David J. Metzler
Keith Kwoh
Russell Scott
Cheryl S. Camin
Sheron C. Patterson

Members Absent

Linda Sharp
Mandy Valasek
Mary Warner
Reginald Seastrunk
Diane Benjamin

Staff Present

Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality
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 9:05 a.m. Minutes from the March 2, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously with one minor change.

MEEA Awards Update

Kevin Lefebvre

Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality, gave an overview of the MEEA Awards. Mr. Lefebvre also showed the plaque that would be awarded to the winners on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 to the commission. The Mayor will award the winners at 9:00 a.m. The winners will have the opportunity to take pictures with the Mayor and the Council member for that particular district.

Discussion on Creating Workshops

Kevin Lefebvre

Sustainability Packet: Mr. Lefebvre informed the commission that the City of Dallas has a project in the works that is called "The Big Idea". It is a series of six different smaller programs that are aimed at helping to minimize environmental footprints for citizens and city functions. It is also aimed at capturing American Reinvestment Recovery Act money. Using that will create a green color workforce and create green jobs in the city to work with community colleges to expand their curriculums. There is a component to weatherize homes which is partly coming from private donations as well as money from the bailout package.

There are funds available for cities and states and local communities to obtain. A large municipality or large communities can also tap into the initial amount of funds which the government has provided just to study feasibility on ideas to make an area or infrastructure green.

Community Garden: Mr. Lefebvre stated that the City is looking at expanding the Community Garden Program. He was asked to find fifty cubic yards of free clean dirt. He found the dirt at White Rock Lake. It is the silt run off from the lake. The dirt had to be scooped out of the run off and had to pay for someone to pick it up and pile it some where else. Mr. Lefebvre called a couple of contacts within the city and was successful in getting the dirt. Mr. Lefebvre was able to use the dirt for another project in the city and save a lot of money.

Stimulus Packet: Mr. Lefebvre mentioned that funds are available. The City of Dallas has the packet and has all the information they need to apply for the funds ready. Monitoring of the funds and how they are allocated is transparent. The Department of Energy is handling a lot of this because all of it is reducing energy consumption.

Recycling Project: There is a company called Recycle Bank. There will be a RFD chip that is specific to your address and will be attached to the recycling bin. When Sanitation Services comes out and pick up the recycling bin, they will measure the weight. The RFD will read the weight and keep tally to let the resident know how much they are recycling. There is an award systems that have different retailers and services that will mail coupons.

After much discussion, the commission members decided to meet on a Saturday to discuss these items further.

Environmental Health Commission Minutes
April 6, 2009
Page 2

2008 Annual Report

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson

The annual report will be discussed at the next meeting.

Commission Reports

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson gave an overview of the MEEA Awards. She stated that awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2009 in the Flag Room at 8:00 a.m. Office of Environmental Quality sent out the invitations and to date has received 70 people R.S.V.P. Light breakfast will be served. OEQ will be accepting any food items the commission would like to donate. At 9:00 a.m., Council will formally begin and the Mayor will award the plaques. All commission members need to be camera ready. Nominees will receive a 6x6 green clear glass plaque etched with the MEEA logo highlighted in silver. Dr. Patterson read the list of winners to the commission.

Dr. Patterson informed the commission that she met Mr. Eric Griffin and is confident that Mr. Griffin would help the commission to get more focused and move them more decisively in a number of areas rather than just hearing reports time after time. Areas of interested may include a sustainability project that involves stimulus money form the government and will be on for a number of years. Also suggested, is having the commission involved with the community gardens and the recycling projects. This project would involve the schools, churches, and homeowner associations.

Ms. Cheryl S. Camin invited the commission to attend a debate on the tax payer funded hotel Monday, April 13, 2009 at noon.

Staff Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.