



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
April 2, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

James Mitchell, Chair
Jon (Tad) Heimburger
Keith Kwoh
Sylvia Lagos
Mary Vogelson
Mary Warner

Members Absent

Diane Benjamin
Chris Schulz
Linda Sharp

Staff Present

Teressa Page Davis, Assistant Director, EHS
Lilia Gonzalez, Coordinator, EHS
Steve Parker, Public Works & Transportation
Sarah Kitchen, Office of Environmental Quality
Joshua Hathaway, Office of Environmental Quality
Roger Jayroe, Environmental and Health Services Department

Public Present

Luis Salado, Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce

Minutes

Mr. James Mitchell, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Environmental Health Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. The minutes from the February 5, 2007 and March 5, 2007 meeting were approved.

Status of Pandemic Preparedness Planning

Mary Katherine Sanchez, DCHHS

Ms. Mary Katherine Sanchez updated the commission on pandemic preparedness planning. She mentioned talks between utility companies and the county. She also informed the commission of talks with Dallas Independent School District. A copy of Ms. Sanchez presentation was not provided to the commission.

West Nile Virus Recap and Update

Roger Jayroe, Manager, Environmental and Health Services Department

Mr. Roger Jayroe informed the commission that the presentation they were about to hear had been presented to the Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee. Mr. Jayroe mentioned that he added a few more things on the presentation that have happened since then.

Mr. Jayroe informed the commission that last year was a record year for West Nile Virus in Dallas with 59 human cases and 2 deaths. Mr. Jayroe discussed the Dallas Mosquito Control Plan and also gave an update on meetings with Dallas County on Mosquito Control Programs. A copy of Mr. Jayroe's presentation was presented to the commission.

Sustainability Task Force Update

James Mitchell, Chair, EHC / Steve Parker, Public Works and Transportation

Mr. James Mitchell informed the commission that Mr. Steve Parker has been working on the ISWM with Mrs. Linda Sharp, EHC member.

Mr. Parker mentioned that the subcommittee is moving along with Chapters 2, 3, and 4. He also mentioned that the department is working on the budget. Money was encumbered in the storm water reimbursement for the implementation of ISWM. It has not been formally approved because it is being reviewed by the administrative section.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the political issue he sees is that the proposition to adopt ISWM needs to be presented to Council next year. He believes that if two years go by, Council will run into the same problem they have; that is a Council distracted by upcoming elections or a new Council not ready for such an issue. Therefore, he believes that the task force needs to move as quickly as possible to get consultants on board and working. The taskforce meets again Tuesday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at 4CN #3. Mr. Mitchell invited everyone to attend.

Mrs. Mary Vogelsson asked what role the Environmental Health Commission (EHC) is to play since Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager set up the Sustainability Task Force. Mr. Mitchell stated that is very clear that the EHC began this process. He said that the City Manager's Office saw enough support among councilmembers that they decided to begin a special task force. Mr. Mitchell suggested to the Commission that its role can be to make sure that the task force pursues this ISWM and brings it before Council.

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Commission Reports

Mrs. Sylvia Lagos mentioned that Ed Levine had left the City and that Kathy Davis formerly in Code Enforcement is in charge. She stated that the change is of a concern to her because she feels Mrs. Davis background doesn't fit in with Building Inspections. Mrs. Lagos suggested that the commission contact their councilmember because Mrs. Davis does not have the background to be in Building Inspections. Mr. Mitchell asked Mrs. Lilia Gonzalez to ask Mr. Charles W. Daniels, Assistant City Manager, to come before the commission and speak to them on the issue.

Staff Reports

Mrs. Teresa Page Davis reported that there is still a vacancy for the other assistant director position. She also informed the commission that there are no major issues going on.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

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