



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

REVISED MINUTES

Members Present

Sheron C. Patterson
Diane Benjamin
Cheryl S. Camin
Jon (Tad) Heimbürger
Keith Kwoh
Sylvia Lagos
Meredith McQuiston
David J. Metzler
Susan R. Rader
Linda Sharp
Mandy Valasek
Kedra Williams

Members Absent

Reginald Seastrunk
Mary Warner

Staff Present

Dilip R. Shah, Assistant Director, Environmental and Health Services
Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality
Kim Affat, Office of Environmental Quality

Public Present

Chase Bekarian

Minutes

Ms. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Minutes from the September 8, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Air Quality 101

Kim Affat, Office of Environmental Quality

Ms. Kim Affat from the Office of Environmental Quality informed the commission that the health effects of ozone include shortness of breath, coughing, wheezing, head aches. It particularly affects children and older adults. It may make symptoms such as asthma and preexisting respiratory conditions much worse. The primary sources of nitrogen oxides include mobile source, construction equipment, power generation, gas furnaces, other industrial processes and traffic.

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Mrs. Affat also informed the commission that there are two different standards that the Environmental Protection Agency looks for. One is the 1-hour and the 8-hour standard. She also mentioned that we are not meeting the 8-hour standard. This means that at any point in time during an 8-hour period during the day the levels go above 85 ppb. The potential consequences of constantly being in nonattainment, the federal government has said that we could lose highway funds or CDBG funds.

She showed the commission a chart that shows how the ozone levels in Dallas are lower than before. By 2013, we would have to reach 75 ppb.

Mrs. Affat briefing mentioned that the idling ordinance along with four other cities that have passed an anti-idling ordinance for trucks that are over 14,000 lbs. These trucks can not idle for more than five minutes.

Mrs. Linda Sharp stated that currently all fines collected for idling falls under the general fund. Mrs. Sharp stated that she would prefer the funds be dedicated to help fund more air quality programs. Mrs. Diane Benjamin suggested the commission send a letter to the City Council recommending that any revenue received from citations pertaining to environmental air quality should go specifically to fund air quality programs.

Mrs. Affat also mentioned that currently the anti-idling ordinance is from April – October which is the ozone season but prefer it to be all year round.

Update on the Environmental Awards
Kevin Lefebvre, Office of Environmental Quality

Mr. Kevin Lefebvre informed the commission that the application is on the Green Dallas website. As to date, no applicants have submitted an application. The web address is www.greendallas.net. Ms. Cheryl Camin asked if a press release was planned to promote the website. Mr. Lefebvre is working on a press release with the Public Information Office. Deadline for applicants is December 1, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Commission Reports

Tad Heimburger mentioned a 10/4/08 DMN article about Big City Crushed Concrete. The board discussed the function of concrete recycling and other heavy industrial recycling businesses within Dallas and the additional costs and air pollution that may result when such businesses are forced to outlying regions due to prevailing NIMBY attitudes.

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Staff Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.