



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “C”
Regular Meeting
June 6, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

James Mitchell, Chair
Diane Benjamin
Carol Barnett Davis
Jon (Tad) Heimbürger
Keith Kwoh
Tom Peck
Barbara Pittman

Members Absent

Casie Pierce
Chris Schulz
Mary Warner

Public Present

Kay Sheets, TPWA

Staff Present

Patsy Mitchell, Interim Assistant Director, EHS
Lilia V. Gonzalez, Coordinator, EHS

Minutes

Mr. James Mitchell, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Environmental Health Commission to order at 9:11 a.m. The minutes from the May 2, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

West Nile Virus Update

Rodger Jayroe, Manager, Environmental Assessments

Mr. Jayroe gave an update from the April 2nd meeting. He stated that Environmental Assessments Program have several thousand English and Spanish brochures. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) will start advertising mosquito control in June on the back of their buses. He's had a conference with Dallas County and will probably not have another conference held until they have West Nile or St. Louis Encephalitis case. Once that happens, they will have weekly conferences at the Dallas County offices and give updates on what is happening in the city and in the county. A copy of Mr. Jayroe's presentation was provided to the commission.

Mosquito Control Discussion

Barbara Pittman, Environmental Health Commission

Mrs. Pittman stated that the city's website provides good information on preventing West Nile Virus. She stated that the West Nile Virus is a seasonal epidemic and is transmitted through mosquito. Symptoms may occur 3-14 days after being bit which includes headaches and fevers. Citizens over the age of 50 may be prone to get a serious illness. She also provided informational data to the commissioners. A copy of Mrs. Pittman's presentation was provided to the commission.

Mr. James Mitchell suggested that a notebook be provided to each councilmember with information on mosquito prevention. Mr. Tom Peck stated that in looking through the articles, there is a lot of duplication. He suggested not to include everything and instead suggested drafting a letter with questions and answers. Mrs. Carol Davis commented that as information is put together it is very important to feature the city's website for consistency.

Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Peck if he would work in conjunction with Mrs. Pittman and Mrs. Davis and send each councilmembers a letter with questions and answers to mosquito prevention.

Bats: Possible Strategy for Mosquito Control

Tad Heimburger, Environmental Health Commission

Mr. Heimburger informed the commission that bats do not eat only mosquitos. They eat various insects that are about the size of mosquitos. He stated that the Texas Department of Transportation has a Bat Specialist. This person is an engineer that has taken on bats and is still employed by the department. They also have a retired police officer that builds and mounts bat houses under bridges. The state would do the mounting because of safety issues. Mr. Heimburger provided a copy of Texas Bats and Bridges Project article to the commission.

Commission Reports

None

Staff Reports

None

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.