

Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board
Minutes for October 14, 2020

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on October 14, 2020 at 4 PM via WebEx teleconference. The teleconference login information was posted on the Boards website as well as call-in information. The meeting was live on Metro Nashville Network TV (Channel 3) and streaming online.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Sherman, Chairman, and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Robert Diehl, Jennifer Hackett, Beth Reardon, Jason Repsher and Michael Sullivan.

Mr. Robert Diehl made a motion "Pursuant to Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 16 regarding electronic meetings, as extended by Executive Orders No. 34, 51 and 60, I make a motion that the Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board's meeting agenda constitutes essential business of the Metropolitan Council, and that meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak." Jason Repsher seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

The chair then introduced Interim Public Works Director, Shanna Whitelaw. Director Whitelaw spoke briefly about her background as an engineer both in the private sector and at Metro Water Services. During the director's remarks, Ms. Medori Locket entered the meeting.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from the April 23, 2020 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Michael Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Robert Diehl to approve the minutes and the motion was passed unanimously by roll call.

Chair Sherman gave a brief history of the past couple of years developing and adopting Nashville's Long-term Zero Waste Plan. He emphasized the need to move the plan forward. One area that wasn't explicitly included in the plan was how the implementation of the plan might have disproportionate effects on Nashville's low-income residents and people of color. The chair introduced Dr. David Padgett, professor at Tennessee State University and an expert on environmental justice.

The board heard a presentation from Dr. David Padgett on "A Brief History of Environmental Racism in Nashville from Urban Renewal, to Toxic Landfills, to Brownfield Redevelopment, to Urban Mining, to "Green Gentrification." During Dr. Padgett's presentation Ms. Damita Beck-Taylor entered the meeting.

Below outlines the presentation:

- 1950-60's Urban Renewal (i.e. Black Removal) in Nashville
- 1960's North Nashville vs. Interstate 40
- Late 1960's Bordeaux Landfill
- 1973 the Nashville Thermal Transfer Waste-to-Energy Facility
- 1990's-2000's "Urban Land Recycling" Nashville's Brownfield Program
- 2014 Bordeaux Landfill "Recycled"
- 2016 Thermal Waste Transfer Facility Site "Recycled"
- 2018 Bordeaux Community-Environmental Threats Continue

- Toxic Waste, Solid Waste and Race: Three Case Studies in Middle Tennessee
 - Tennessee State University Community/University Recycling Center
 - Green Gentrification at the Edgehill Community Dry Cleaners Brownfields Site
 - Dickson County Landfill

After the presentation board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment on the presentation.

Up next, Mr. Todd Lawrence, director of Urban Green Lab gave a short presentation on the waste reduction recommendations of Mayor Cooper's Sustainability Advisory Committee. Major recommendations were the creation of a solid waste authority, implementing a save as you throw rate-based system, construction and demolition recycling deposit system with a transfer and recycling facility, and implementation of a food waste ban.

Mr. Lawrence then gave a presentation on the Nashville Environmental Justice initiative with the goal to grow a culture of environmental justice learning that empowers Nashville's most-marginalized communities and to teach Nashvillians how to make more inclusive decisions that strengthen our people, profit and planet. The initiative is a joint project between Urban Green Lab and the Tennessee State University.

- Year 1 - Conduct a baseline assessment lead by Tennessee State University
- Year 2 – Based on the assessment, create and pilot learning modules for institutions affecting 1-2 sample communities
- Year 3 – Depending on pilot outcomes, deepen and expand educational offerings to new communities

After the presentation, board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Jennifer Hackett seconded by Mr. Robert Diehl, and it was passed unanimously by roll call.