



City of Dallas

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
Dallas City Hall – 1500 Marilla, L1FN Conference Room “B”
Regular Meeting
June 23, 2008
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Sheron C. Patterson
Diane Benjamin
Cheryl S. Camin
Keith Kwoh
Sylvia Lagos
Meredith McQuiston
Reginald Seastrunk
Mandy Valasek
Mary Warner
Kedra Williams

Members Absent

Jon (Tad) Heimbürger
David J. Metzler
Linda Sharp

Staff Present

Dilip Shah, Environmental and Health Services Department
Lilia Gonzalez, Environmental and Health Services Department
Laura Fiffick, Director, Office of Environmental Quality
Frank Camp, Office of Environmental Quality
David Howe, City Attorney's Office

Public Present

Mica Esquenazi

Minutes

Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Minutes from the June 2, 2008 were approved unanimously.

Environmental Awards Criteria/Guidelines

Laura Fiffick, Director, Office of Environmental Quality

Ms. Laura Fiffick provided the commission with criteria and guidelines from other cities on their environmental awards program. Some cities guidelines/criteria are very specific and some are more broad and generic. She hopes that the commission considers the handouts as helpful in creating criteria and guidelines for the environmental awards program for the City of Dallas.

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She mentioned that the conference that was planned with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been cancelled. Therefore, the commission would have to coordinate their own event. The City of Dallas could help get sponsors to fund the event.

Ms. Fiffick suggested that the commission should create categories then work on the criteria for each category.

Categories included:

Green buildings/planning/design
Green products/purchasing
Grass roots organizing
Air quality
Market transformation
Waste management/recycling
Green education training
Health
Pollution protection

Criteria included:

Measurable result
History costs/savings
Replicable
People involved or affected (partners/networking)
Sustainability
Expansion
PR efforts
Creativity information
Ability to lead others

A few commission members suggested that all paper applications submitted should have short paragraph descriptions. Others suggested on-line applications should have paragraph descriptions no more than 500 words. Another suggestion is that the applications must be strictly submitted by e-mail only. This includes a title, summary, and supporting materials that may or may not be reviewed by the committee and will not be returned. Ms. Fiffick suggested that a facility ID or regulatory number be provided so that the City of Dallas can do a compliance history search to make sure that the people receiving an award have not had compliance issues in the past.

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The commission would like the event to take place at the Audoban Dallas. The grand prize could be a recyclable glass globe with certificate or a recyclable award trophy made by an artist. The artist could be recognized for donating his/her time to design the award. It was suggested that recognition to other companies that submitted an application.

Ms. Fiffick mentioned that the City of Dallas has a city employee award that is given to an individual on a team all year long. She would like to provide the commission with the winners from each quarter and have them select an overall city employee team. The commission agreed on Ms. Fiffick's suggestion.

She also mentioned that there is a Pollution Prevention Week in September, Texas Recycle Day in November, and Mayor Leppert is hosting a Sustainability Week in August. She suggested that the environmental awards event could be joined with Pollution Prevention Week this year and next year adopt an official Sustainability Week.

Ms. Fiffick informed the commission that staff from her department will put all the information together and present it at the next EHC meeting. She will coordinate a date, time, and location with the Mayor's office and Audoban. She will also search for sponsors.

Commission Reports

None

Staff Reports

None

Public Comment

Miss Mica Esquenazi attends a small Jewish school by the name of Yavneh Academy of Dallas. Miss Esquenazi's school began an organization run by students attending the academy called Hashinui. Hashinui is a Hebrew word meaning "the change". The purpose of this organization is to help people make a change in their lifestyles whether small or large and to help them become environmentally sound. The organization began recycling and also raised money to plant trees in Israel. The latest project includes an environmental festival at the school's campus in October. Several organizations will be in attendance and will have a booth.

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.