

Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board
Minutes for December 4, 2019

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on December 4th at 4 PM in the Sonny West Conference Center.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Sherman, Chairman, and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Damita Beck-Taylor, Robert Diehl, Jeff McCormick, Beth Reardon and Michael Sullivan.

Mr. Sherman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone including Metro Council Public Works Committee vice chair, Zack Young, and giving an overview of the agenda. Mr. Sherman spoke on Metro's budgetary issues and that long-term waste reduction would rely on funding and political support. In the short term, Metro would focus on some low-cost policy recommendations.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from the September 16, 2019 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Jeff McCormick and seconded by Mr. Robert Diehl to approve the minutes and the motion was passed unanimously.

The board heard a presentation from Todd Lawrence, director of Urban Green Lab. Board members Jennifer Hackett and Lisa Smith arrived during the presentation. Urban Green Lab is a sustainable living non-profit that focuses on education. The organization has a multi-pronged approach to sustainable living including classroom-based education and workplace education. Additionally, Urban Green Lab is Nashville's leading non-profit on food waste initiatives. Funded by the National Resource Defense Council and Kroger, the Nashville Food Waste Initiative works on food rescue and diversion.

Ally Miller, program manager at Turnip Green Creative Reuse, gave an overview of Turnip Green's waste reduction programs. While reuse is their focus, they also conduct education programs on all aspects of waste reduction and is Metro's waste reduction education contractor. Under a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Turnip Green staff have been auditing select Metro Public Works recycling routes for contamination prevention education.

Tara Ladd with Metro Legal spoke on Tennessee Code regarding solid waste authorities. There was discussion on the benefits of local and regional authorities.

After all presentations, Mr. Sherman opened the floor for public comments.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Jeff McCormick seconded by Ms. Damita Beck-Taylor and it was passed unanimously.