



Environmental Commission
Environmental Health Subcommittee
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2023

AGENDA

LOCATION: City Hall 7AN & Webex

CHAIR CANDACE THOMPSON PRESIDING

PRESENT: [6]

Candace Thompson, District 4	* Dr. Folashade Afolabi, General Public
* Haddijatou Bayo, P.E., General Public	* Dr. Sarah Ashitey, General Public
* **Renee Roberson, District 8	* Dr. Barry Lachman, District 12 (alternate)

ABSENT: [0]

**Note: Members of the Environmental Health Committee participated in this meeting by video conference.*

***Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened*

The meeting was called to order at 6:24p.m. with a quorum of the Environmental Health Committee present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

No registered speakers.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

I) Congressional District Health Dashboard

- a) [Home | Congressional District Health Dashboard](#)
- b) Could be a helpful resource for our work (information on life expectancy, lead exposure, obesity, etc.)

II) Formation of Recommendations related to topics discussed during the previous meeting

a) Vaping Policies

- i) Dr. Lachman: Dallas does not have a vaping policy included in the smoking ordinance.
- ii) Dr. Afolabi: In support of developing a policy that limits vaping in public areas. We can find examples from other cities to go off of.

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- iii) Dr. Ashitey: Harmful effects are clear; the question is what to do about it. In favor of modeling a policy after examples from other cities.
- iv) Chair Thompson: We could model after Houston's policy. This could be an extension to Dallas's current policy, not a new policy itself.
- v) Haddijatou Bayo: Are we talking about tobacco vaping and nicotine or non-nicotine vaping?
- vi) Dr. Afolabi: Preference for applying it to all electronic smoking devices (example from Austin's ordinance).
- vii) Susan Alvarez (OEQS): The base of most vapor contains VOCs. Sent copy of Dallas's current smoking ordinance. Do we want this to apply to only City buildings (administrative directive) or city-wide (ordinance)?
- viii) Commissioner Lachman: Would rather see it as an ordinance for all public spaces.
- ix) Dr. Afolabi: Agreed! We should make a strong argument for this in our recommendation.
- x) Haddijatou Bayo: L.A. has banned flavored products. Do we want to consider this?
- xi) Commissioner Roberson: In favor of amending the current ordinance.
- xii) Dr. Afolabi: If we use the same language as Austin, that would include flavored devices.
- xiii) Chair Thompson: In agreement to add this vaping policy to Dallas's existing ordinance. Let's collaborate on a memo to present at the May Environmental Commission meeting.
- xiv) Susan Alvarez (OEQS): Dallas's administrative directive was updated in 2014 to include e-cigarettes. This may be a good place to start for an ordinance recommendation.

b) Concrete Batch Plant Buffer Zones

- i) Commissioner Roberson: Providing details on current batch plant issues in District 8. Code issues violations, but the owner isn't complying.
- ii) Dr. Ashitey: Regarding batch plant buffer zones, it is difficult to find studies that define zones by meter or yard. In a study from Nigeria, even at 1,000 meters, there was inflammation and lung damage in rats. There was also growth retardation. Our current buffer zone is 440ft.
- iii) Dr. Ashitey: There is also a study from Houston. Pollution outside of 1/3 of batch plants surveyed was comparable to pollution near major freeways.
- iv) Dr. Ashitey: My recommendation would be to at least double the buffer zone. There are bills filed in the Texas Legislature to double the buffer zone to 880ft.
- v) Dr. Afolabi: Also in favor of doubling. What would we do about existing plants?
- vi) Haddijatou Bayo: The City of McKinney is closing some batch plants due to rezoning.
- vii) Susan Alvarez (OEQS): ZOAC is working on Phase II of batch plant code revisions. Their recommendations lie in the 1,500-1,600ft. range. The Environmental Health Committee's recommendation could serve to agree with the Planning Commission's recommendation or could extend it.
- viii) Chair Thompson: We could be in alignment with them. We could draft a recommendation around their suggestions.

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- ix) Haddijatou Bayo: Even if buffer zones are extended, how do we make sure there aren't a disproportionate number of batch plants in a certain area?
- x) Chair Thompson: We can add some language in the recommendation modeled on how other cities have done this, so that the burden isn't all on one community.
- xi) Commissioner Lachman: Regarding regulations for group homes, concentration is a consideration, but this is not the case for batch plants.
- xii) Chair Thompson: Could we utilize similar language to that used to limit overconcentration of group homes?
- xiii) Dr. Afolabi: If we use verbiage that emphasizes needs of communities from an environmental health standpoint (potentially using the Congressional District Health Dashboard), we can say that we should be even more stringent with buffer zones in these communities. Challenge is how to define these areas.
- xiv) Commissioner Lachman: Best local measure we have is the PCCI asthma dashboard. Could implement a regulation that states you can't locate a batch plant in areas that have a 4 or 5 ranking on this dashboard.
- xv) Dr. Afolabi: We shouldn't take it down to block level. Census tract level would be better.
- xvi) Chair Thompson: Dr. Ashitey, Commissioner Lachman, and Commissioner Roberson, please work on drafting the batch plant buffer zone recommendations memo. Dr. Afolabi, Haddijatou, and I can work on drafting the vaping policy recommendations memo.

VOTING ITEMS

- I) **Consideration of approval of Environmental Health Committee recommendations on vaping policies to be presented to the full Environmental Commission**
 - a) Moved by Dr. Afolabi.
 - b) Seconded by Commissioner Lachman.
 - c) Motion passed unanimously.

- II) **Consideration of approval of Environmental Health Committee recommendations related to concrete batch plant buffer zones to be presented to the full Environmental Commission**
 - a) Moved by Dr. Ashitey.
 - b) Seconded by Dr. Afolabi.
 - c) Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT


After all business of the Environmental Health Committee had been considered, Haddijatou Bayo moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lachman and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Health Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:29p.m.

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Drafted by:
Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator
Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

4/12/2023
Date

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Candace Thompson (Apr 12, 2023 17:16 CDT)

Approved by:
Candace Thompson, Chair
Environmental Health Committee

Apr 12, 2023
Date

Attachments:
[Meeting Recording](#)