



**Environmental Commission
Environmental Health Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**
September 7, 2023

LOCATION: City Hall 7AN & Webex

CHAIR CANDACE THOMPSON PRESIDING

PRESENT: [5]

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

ABSENT: [1]

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| Dr. Sarah Ashitey, General Public |
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**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 6:21p.m. with a quorum of the Environmental Health Committee present.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

No registered speakers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lachman moved to adopt the June 1, 2023 Environmental Health Committee meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Afolabi and unanimously adopted.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- I) **Follow-up on August 17, 2023 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality public meeting for Texas Star Ready Mix, LLC**
 - a) Vice Chair Roberson provided a recap of the August 17th meeting.
 - b) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) Looked at Parkland Center for Clinical Innovation (PCCI) Vulnerability Index and looked up the zip code and census tract where the batch plant is located. That zip code is the

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- second highest in vulnerability of all of Dallas (worst 2%). The census tract is in the worst 3%.
- c) Chair Thompson
 - i) Did the company talk about why they chose that area and why they are not exploring other areas that don't have such a concentration of batch plants?
 - d) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) The plant has been operating since 1955, which predates when permits were required. It is now operating outside the law.
 - e) Haddijatou Bayo
 - i) They are still operating even though they don't have a valid permit?
 - ii) Yes.
 - f) Vice Chair Roberson / Commissioner Lachman
 - i) They also have two violations (including one related to their open conveyor belt and fence).
 - g) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) Also, the sources of particulates are too close to the border of the facility.
 - h) Haddijatou Bayo
 - i) Are they opening themselves to civil action?
 - i) Chair Thompson
 - i) When will the next meeting be held?
 - j) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) There isn't another public hearing.
 - ii) Could we craft something to present to the full Environmental Commission that lays out everything we've talked about? If the permit is approved, it isn't the end of this effort - it will be the beginning of an effort to expose that these problems aren't being adequately addressed.
 - k) Chair Thompson
 - i) We'd have to coordinate with Chair Bazan on this. It would be helpful to know what to do prior to a batch plant coming on site, rather than being reactionary.
 - l) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) We have a listing of where these plants are. Do we know which ones are operating with/without permits? We could make the argument that those plants operating without a permit should be closed down until they obtain one. We should know when plants are coming up for re-permit. These hearings should happen regularly.
 - m) Chair Thompson
 - i) Is this an opportunity where we can make a recommendation to TCEQ to hold these hearings before re-permitting/permitting?
 - n) Vice Chair Roberson
 - i) Permits are even issued without Council Members knowing. We had talked about requirements that the Council be notified.
 - o) Commissioner Lachman

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- i) Plant operators aren't exempt from civil liability – they could be responsible for the damage. There could be criminal liability for child endangerment.
- p) Dr. Afolabi
 - i) From our committee's standpoint, can we make a statement that these are reactionary measures, when we know batch plants have clear health effects? We can find data to make a statement that it is imperative that the communities involved be informed.
- q) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) Should our homework be mapping where batch plants are and showing there's connection to health effects?
 - ii) To the point regarding being reactionary, we can request from TCEQ what the licensed batch plants are, then identify those that are operating without permits.
- r) Chair Thompson
 - i) We'll gather information and talk about this during our next meeting.
- s) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) If we come up with a plan for what we need, suggest we sit down with PCCI and ask them to map the data.
- t) Dr. Afolabi
 - i) Can we get someone from PCCI to speak at one of our meetings?
- u) Chair Thompson
 - i) Yes, let's do this during the next meeting.
- v) Commissioner Lachman
 - i) The Dallas Morning News published an editorial in support of adding vaping to the smoking ordinance.
 - ii) Regarding budget process, it looks like there's consensus to strip funds for incentives around gas-powered landscape equipment? Also, is the City taking funds away from improving code enforcement? 311 needs to be available in Spanish.
- w) Dr. Afolabi
 - i) Regarding gas-powered landscape equipment, do we need to address this again? Let's get an update on the next agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of the Environmental Health Committee had been considered, Dr. Afolabi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lachman and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Health Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:07p.m.

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September 7, 2023

Erin Diehl

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

09/25/2023

Date

Candace Thompson

Candace Thompson (Oct 31, 2025 15:12 CDT)

Approved by:
Candace Thompson, Chair
Environmental Health Committee

10/31/23

Date

Attachments:
[Meeting Recording](#)