

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Public Works Department Conference Room

CAC Representatives Present

Ms. Sharyn Fox, Chairperson

Dr. Arnold Abrams

Dr. Harold Cones

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Sandra Davis

Mr. Thomas Herbert

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

CAC Representatives Absent

Mr. Phil Bomersheim

Ms. Artistine Reid

Ms. Elsy Henriquez

Ms. Crystal Hill

Public Works Representatives

Mr. Roy Chesson, CAC Coordinator

Mr. H. Reed Fowler, Jr., Director of Public Works

Mr. Michael Mee, Assistant Director of Public Works

Mr. Tim Shockley, Acting Solid Waste Division Administrator

Call to Order

Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the November 14, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Review of Members' Terms and Expiration Dates

Mr. Chesson distributed a sheet showing the expiration dates of the current terms for all the Committee members. Members reviewed the sheet and agreed that the information was correct.

Ms. Davis noted that her term was to expire in March and she asked to be reappointed for another term. Mr. Chesson will draft a reappointment letter that will be forwarded to the City Manager for signature.

New Youth Representatives for the Upcoming Year

Mr. Fowler stated that while we could request nominations from the Office on Youth Development as we have in the past, he would like to explore other avenues if possible. It was noted by the Committee that the youth representatives had not been present at many of the meetings. Ms. Miller stated that the subjects discussed at the meetings involved concepts that

students might find either complex. Ms Davis suggested that we go through school guidance counselors because they would be more familiar with the individual students and would be better able to suggest students who were both capable and interested. Ms. Davis said that she would get Mr. Chesson the name and address of the proper contact to coordinate this. Mr. Chesson was tasked with drafting a letter, which Ms. Fox will assist on, seeking recommendations for student representatives from guidance counselors. Also, Ms. Fox said that she would bring this subject up at the Youth Task Force meeting that she was to attend later in the week.

Review of Draft Changes to Chapter 19

Mr. Fowler reported that the draft changes to Chapter 19 that were being reviewed by the Committee had been briefed to Neil Morgan (Assistant City Manager) except for the part that dealt with call-in for bulk waste pickup. This included setting a maximum volume for bulk waste collection; however, the maximum amount listed in the draft changes (3 cubic yards) was briefed as a soft figure that might be changed after further consideration.

Mr. Shockley reminded the Committee that the list of proposed changes that the Committee was reviewing was only a draft and that the proposed changes were still being reviewed by his division. There is no guarantee that any of the changes listed would actually be made.

There was a brief discussion concerning whether volume limits (as well as some other restrictions in Chapter 19) would cause problems during disaster recovery. Several of the Public Works staff stated that this was not a problem since Chapter 19 gave the Director authority to override any provision as he/she sees fit. Special procedures and waivers of normal restrictions would be promulgated to the public after a disaster.

A detailed discussion then followed concerning the proposed bulk waste call-in program (recommended by the Committee at its last meeting). While many different issues were discussed, they dealt mainly with details in implementing a call-in program. These included:

- How bulk waste collections would be scheduled including use of scheduling software. (The Department has software already and GIS information has been entered.)
- How residents would notify the Department of required collections. Telephone, e-mail and web-based forms were discussed.
- How (or if) residents would be given a verification that a collection would be made as requested (a concern mainly if the request is made by e-mail or a web-based form).
- The number of days notice that would be required to schedule a collection.
- Factors which affect how many collections could be scheduled including volume of each collection, locations of requested collections and proximity to other locations that are scheduled, driver and vehicle availability, distance to landfill, traffic, and weather.

In reading over the draft changes, Mr. Herbert noticed that while grass clippings were specifically excluded in the definitions of some categories of trash/waste, no category seemed to include it. He then suggested that a matrix or table be created that showed what category various items of waste are in and how they are to be disposed of. For instance, furniture would be shown as being residential bulk waste and it is disposed of by placing it on the curb beside the automated trash cart on normal trash collection day.

Dr. Abrams suggested that local colleges could be utilized to help develop marketing/public relations programs to help educate the public of the issues involved with trash and bulk waste collection and to inform them of the proper disposal methods. He suggested that this task could be given to a business or management class to work on as a project during a semester.

Discussion of Homeowner Generated Construction Debris

Due to time, this topic was not discussed as a separate item; however, it was brought up occasionally during the discussion of the previous topic. Ms. Fox directed that this again be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Items for Discussion During 2007 Meetings

The following topics were suggested for future discussion:

- Continued discussion of homeowner generated construction debris
- Sanitary sewer overflows
- Emergency operations
- Television/Monitor disposal
- Leaf collection

It was suggested that these items be placed at the bottom of future agendas so that they could be used as “roll in” topics.

APWA Conference

The Virginia/DC/Maryland Chapter of the American Public Works Association will be held at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Newport News on May 15 – 18.

Adjournment

Chairperson Fox adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.