

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, February 20, 2007

Public Works Department Conference Room

CAC Representatives Present

Ms. Sharyn Fox, Chairperson

Dr. Arnold Abrams

Mr. Phil Bomersheim

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Sandra Davis

Mr. Thomas Herbert

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

CAC Representatives Absent

Dr. Harold Cones

Ms. Artistine Reid

Ms. Elsy Henriquez

Ms. Crystal Hill

Public Works Representatives

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

Mr. Roy Chesson, CAC Coordinator

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 January 16, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Discussion of City Manager's Letter to City Council

Mr. Chesson distributed a copy of a letter from the City Manager to the City Council dated February 5, 2007, with the subject Solid Waste and Trash Regulations. In the letter, the City Manager listed a number of unresolved issues that have been brought to light as a result of the Public Works staff's re-writing Chapter 19 (Solid Waste Regulations) of the City Code and the work of a parallel WINN team that was working on recommendations to policies regulating trash, litter and debris. The letter stated that these two efforts must be reconciled before recommendations could be made to City Council. The City Manager's office would coordinate this and he expected to have specific recommendations before the end of this summer.

Mr. Fowler described WINN (Workforce Innovation in Newport News) and the parallel WINN teams which are assigned specific issues to investigate in order to make recommendations for solution or improvement. The parallel team mentioned in the letter had been tasked with

investigating trash, litter and debris. Many of the recommendations from the parallel WINN team involve changes to Chapter 19, which, in an unrelated effort, is undergoing a comprehensive review by the Solid Waste Division. Not stated in the letter is the fact that the CAC has also been working on solid waste collection issues, particularly bulk waste collection. The City Manager has directed his office to coordinate an effort to reconcile the issues raised by the WINN team and the Solid Waste Division (and by extension, the CAC). Mr. Herbert volunteered to serve as a CAC representative on the team that works on this.

Ms. Fox questioned whether the CAC should continue working on the bulk waste collection issue since the City Manager has assigned the broader trash, litter and debris issue to a separate team. It was decided that Mr. Herbert should keep the CAC apprised of the work of the new team and the CAC would give feedback and recommendations for Mr. Herbert to present to the team.

Status of Chapter 19 Changes

Mr. Shockley made a PowerPoint presentation on the recommended changes to Chapter 19. The presentation included a summary of the problems faced by his division, a list of recommended changes to Chapter 19 that would address these problems, and a revised fine schedule for solid waste related violations. (The PowerPoint presentation is being filed with the meeting minutes, including online.)

The CAC had questions and concerns about changes to the following Chapter 19 sections:

- Section 19-10(c): CAC wanted to revisit the number of bags of leaves that could be left curbside
- Section 19-16(a): CAC wanted to know if residents who were disposing of concrete at the Drop Off Facility could pay for amounts of concrete in excess of the limit.
- Section 19-20: CAC is concerned about the curbside placement of containers and bulk waste in culs-de-sac.
- Section 19-24: CAC would like further discussion on the number of days that containers and bulk waste can be put curbside.
- Fines: CAC would like some time period defined after which old violations will be expunged and not count toward the issuance of citations or fines.

Mr. Shockley agreed to look into each of these and make changes to the revisions to address them.

Review of Draft Matrix Showing Allowable Disposal Methods

A matrix showing allowable disposal methods for a list of items had been distributed to the CAC members along with the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Shockley presented essentially the same matrix but in a different format to the committee. It was unanimously agreed that this matrix clearly conveyed the disposal requirements listed in various parts of Chapter 19 in an easy to

read format. While no specific recommendations were made as to what should be done with the matrix, it was felt that this would be a valuable tool in educating the public on how to dispose of all different kinds of waste.

Homeowner Generated Construction Debris

This topic was generally included in the discussion of the draft changes to Chapter 19. Because this topic should also be addressed by the City Manager's team (discussed earlier), it would no longer be addressed by the CAC except when it arises as part of that team's work. The committee would discuss it at that time and would forward any recommendations to the team by Mr. Herbert.

Change in May Meeting Date

The date of the May CAC meeting was originally scheduled for May 15th. However, this conflicts with the Virginia/DC/Maryland Chapter of the American Public Works Association conference that will be held at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on May 15 – 18. The May meeting date was therefore changed to May 22.

Adjournment

Chairperson Fox adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.