

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

May 18, 2004

Fountain Plaza Building

CAC Representatives Present

Ms. Lois Custer
Ms. Sharyn Fox
Mr. Arthur Keyes
Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller
Mr. Gus Owens
Ms. Annistine Patrick
Ms. Artistine Reid

CAC Representatives Absent

Ms. Lindsey Bateman
Dr. Harold Cones
Ms. Kathy Dennehey
Mr. Ben Whanger

Public Works Representatives

Dori Brown, Solid Waste Division
Reed Fowler, Administration Division
Steve Land, Wastewater Division

Others Present:

Elaine Perry, Department of Health

Call to Order

5:35 p.m.

April 20, 2004 Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Ms. Custer was passed to approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

Future Meeting Dates

The CAC has decided to take a summer hiatus. The next CAC meeting will be Tuesday, September 21, 2004.

Street Sweeping Report

A video discussing the City's street sweeping policy was shown. The CAC then discussed the May 14, 2004 memo from the Street Maintenance Assistant Administrator, Kenny Holloway, responding to the motion passed by the CAC requesting that Public Works investigate the impact of implementing a Public Works policy stating that when a car is blocking the path of the street sweepers, that the entire block is not swept. Mr. Holloway explained that Public Works could not implement such a policy change because it would be punishing those residents who comply with the request to park their cars off of the street. Additionally, street sweeping efforts allow the City to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Act by reducing runoff debris in storm drains and other drainage channels. CAC then suggested that the Solid Waste Enforcement Officer issue violation notices to citizens who place debris curbside that impairs street sweeping efforts. They also recommended that permanent signs, with consent of the neighborhood, are installed on

streets, throughout the city, informing residents of the street sweeping schedule and of the penalty for non-compliance. Additionally, Public Works staff will investigate expanding the existing adopt a spot program to include an “adopt a block” theme to coincide with street sweeping program.

Mosquito Control

Steve Land responded to the motion made by the CAC at the April meeting suggesting that Public Works staff research and investigate the pros/cons of mass distribution of concentrated amounts of insecticides on our environment. He replied that such a level of scientific research and analysis is beyond the scope and abilities of Public Works at this time. Wastewater will continue with its current education and remediation campaign, whereas holes created by fallen trees will be filled, notifying residents that dirt from Denbigh landfill is available free of charge to fill holes in their yards, and continuation of the mosquito fogging program.

Elaine Perry, Director of the Health Department, informed the CAC that their goal is to teach residents that prevention is a better course of action than remediation. They recommend that residents reduce any standing water in their yards thereby reducing larvae from forming. She stated that long term environmental and health effects of mass pesticide application is unknown.

New Business

- ◆ Reed reported that the Public Works Department just received funding approval for an amnesty tree removal program allowing us to hire a contractor to collect the remaining yard debris from Hurricane Isabel. A media campaign explaining the program, which will run May 31 – June 19, is being finalized.
- ◆ Solid Waste will be making a presentation to City Council on June 8 recommending revisions to the Chapter 19 Solid Waste Ordinance. In particular, we are recommending that the penalty for illegal dumping be reduced to a civil charge (from its current criminal status) which will enable the City to prosecute more illegal dumping cases.
- ◆ Staff will investigate if the passage of the 2002 “Blight Bill” is impacting Newport News Public Works policy and procedure.
- ◆ A motion passed stating that Lindsey Bateman (youth representative) be removed from the CAC due to her lack of attendance (she’s missed four of the last five meetings).
- ◆ Representatives from the Mayors Committee on Disabilities attended the April CAC meeting. The CAC will continue to invite representatives from this committee to attend meetings as issues needing their input arise.

Meeting adjourned

6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 21, 2004