

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Public Works Department Conference Room

CAC Representatives Present

Dr. Harold Cones, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Phil Bomersheim

Mr. Douglas Coenen

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Sandra Davis

Mr. Thomas Herbert

CAC Representatives Absent

Ms. Sharyn Fox, Chairperson

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

Public Works Representatives

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

Mr. Ralph Caldwell, Assistant Director of Public Works

Mr. Roy Chesson, CAC Coordinator

Mr. Tim Shockley, Solid Waste Division Administrator

Call to Order

Dr. Cones called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the June 19, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Discussion of Current Member Terms and Possible New Members

Mr. Chesson pointed out that while making preparations for start of the new CAC year, he noticed that Ms. Sharyn Fox's term was expiring this month and that since she had served two full terms, she was not eligible for reappointment. He also checked and found that Mr. Tom Herbert's term will also expire this month and that Mr. Phil Bomersheim's term will expire in November. However, both of them are completing their first full term and are eligible to be reappointed. Both agreed to serve another term. Mr. Chesson said he would take care of getting their reappointment letters taken care of within the next week.

With Ms. Fox's term expiring and with the resignation of Ms. Artistine Reid last June, the CAC would be short two members. Ms. Custer recommended that we contact Ms. Lou Farrar (Central voting district; Tuesday trash collection) and Ms. Joanne Brown (North voting district; Thursday trash collection).

There are currently no student members on the Committee. A letter of invitation has been sent to Mr. Matthew Abeyounis but he has not responded. Ms. Custer stated that she would contact him. Mr. Fowler said that he had a student in mind but wanted to speak with them first.

Current members and the date that their terms expire are:

Phil Bomersheim	Nov 2007	(First term)
Douglas Coenen	Sept 2009	(First term)
Dr. Harold Cones	Aug 2008	(Second term)
Lois Custer	Aug 2008	(Second term)*
Sandra Davis	Mar 2009	(Second term)
Sharyn Fox	Sept 2007	(Second term)
Thomas Herbert	Sept 2007	(First full term)
Sharron Kitchen Miller	Aug 2008	(Second term)*

* Indicates that member also served an initial one-year term that does not count as a full term.

Update of Meetings of the Chapter 19 and Trash Project Team

Mr. Shockley gave an update on the Chapter 19 and Trash WINN Team Project. The team has completed its work and will make a presentation at the Council Workshop on September 25th.

The five major recommended changes to Chapter 19 are:

1. Provides a progressive Fines and Fees Schedule where only a notice or warning is given for a first violation, with increasingly severe fines being levied for additional violations.
2. Revises definition of bulk waste. Bulk waste is now defined as residential solid waste that is not suitable -- because of size or weight -- to be placed in authorized garbage containers.
3. Revises bulk waste volume allowance to 6 cubic yards (reduced from 18 cubic yards)
4. Allows unlimited amount of vegetative waste at Drop-off Facility
5. Provides realistic period for set out of vegetative waste by allowing vegetative waste to be placed curbside from the weekend (when most people do yard work) until the bulk waste collection day.

Mr. Shockley elaborated on changing the Friday collection day to Wednesday, explaining that the amount of traffic on Fridays results in excessive transit times from the neighborhoods to the Bethel landfill. Moving the collection day to Wednesday and using Friday for truck maintenance should help alleviate this.

In addition to these ordinance changes, several initiatives are being implemented:

1. Changing the Friday collection day to Wednesday to reduce the impact of traffic congestion on bulk collection.
2. Use of flashcams tactically placed in the city where illegal dumping has become an issue.
3. Use of rear loader truck(s) to augment the knuckleboom fleet to collect small items placed on the curb as bulk

Leaf Collection

Mr. Caldwell described the leaf collection program. It is conducted in three rounds between November and mid-January using vacuum machines and front-end loaders. The cost for each round is approximately \$150K - \$175K. During the leaf collection season, the Streets Division is essentially shut down except for leaf collection.

Mr. Herbert pointed out that to City residents, this service is essential as most residents would be completely unable to remove and transport the large volume of leaves that normally accumulate.

Mr. Shockley also stated that collecting leaves and making compost from them at the Denbigh landfill helps increase the recycling rate that the City reports each year. However, piles of leaves on the street awaiting collection create problems, particularly blocking stormwater drains.

Mr. Fowler stated that it was politically impossible to reduce this program.

Mr. Herbert volunteered for the CAC members to write letters to the editor on matters that Public Works felt needed more public awareness or education. This would be cheaper than placing ads in the paper and would probably get more notice since many people read the editorials and letters everyday. (Most people don't pay much attention to ads, if they see them at all.) Public Works would only need to let Committee members know when there is an issue that needs attention.

Emergency Operations

Mr. Shockley gave an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) organization that Public Works will adopt during emergencies such as during a hurricane. He also described how Public Works is involved in a continuous cycle of severe weather planning throughout the year in which the Severe Weather Plan is constantly being updated and improved.

He made the point that Public Works is now considered a first responder in emergencies as we must be on the scene immediately following a storm or incident in order to restore roads and services.

Adjournment

Dr. Cones adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.