

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, October 18, 2005

Public Works Building

CAC Representatives Present

Dr. Arnold Abrams

Dr. Harold Cones

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Sandra Davis

Ms. Sharyn Fox

Mr. Thomas Herbert

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Mille

Ms. Talysa Parker

Ms. Artistine Reid

Ms. Ciara Reid

Public Works Representatives

Ms. Dori Brown, Solid Waste Division

Mr. Reed H. Fowler, Jr., Administration Division

Mr. Tony Risk, Street Maintenance Division

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approve Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Dr. Cones and seconded by Lois Custer passed to approve the September 20, 2005 meeting minutes as submitted.

CAC Membership

The most recent appointee, Dr. Arnold Abrams, was introduced to the committee. One vacancy remains in the At-Large position.

2006 CAC Meeting Calendar

The CAC agreed to the following schedule:

January 17, 2006

February 21, 2006

March 21, 2006

April 18, 2006

May 16, 2006

June 20, 2006

The annual CAC Retreat will also be scheduled during 2006. For the remainder of 2005, the next meeting will take place on November 15. There will not be a December meeting in observance of the holidays.

Public Works Budget FY06

The FY2006 Public Works budget was distributed to the CAC as a reference tool. Mr. Fowler explained how funding was determined. Dr. Abrams volunteered to be on a budget committee for the Department. The suggestion was also made to provide a comparison of present and past year Public Works budgets. Ms. Custer suggested that the bulk waste collection issue be re-evaluated as she proposed that restructuring the current method may also be a cost savings measure for the City.

City of Newport News *Project Clean Sweep* Update

CAC members were provided copy of the most recent newspaper advertisement for the Project Clean Sweep program. To date, 220 tons of waste has been collected on the two clean sweep dates.

This project is a multi-departmental effort includes Public Works, Codes Compliance, the Police Department and City Farm.

Residential “Street Sweeping” Pilot Program

Staff distributed draft “Adopt A Spot/Street Sweeping” Activity Report forms for review. The purpose of distributing these forms was to gather input from the CAC on how best to track and collect data (the amount of debris swept, the amount of litter collected). Various methods were discussed including assigning an average weight for a bag of debris, having bulk waste trucks make special trips to collect/weigh these pilot bags of debris, or assigning an average amount of debris (tons per curb mile) to each adopted street. Ms. Custer added that the pilot data could be collected by the Crime Watch members and that block captains could be assigned to provide this information to the City. It was determined that by the November 15th CAC meeting, staff would finalize the preparation work for the street sweeping/adopt a spot and alternate side street parking pilots. Staff will present to the CAC the date of the official pilot kick off date, how the pilot data will be collected and reported to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and draft a letter from Ms. Fox, CAC Chair, to the City Manager regarding the details of the pilot program.

Other Issues

- In reference to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grant funded telephone notification (phone tree) system used to inform residents of emergency and non-emergency issues, Mr. Herbert suggested that an email “option” be included in that notification system via the City of Newport News webpage. It was suggested that a sign up feature allowing residents to register for emails on a variety of topics of interest to them be established. Dr. Abrams recommended the City contact a fellow colleague of his at ECPI to provide the City with an intern to work on the webpage.
- Ms. Artistine Reid brought up the issue of litter and how more street baskets could aid in reducing litter in the southeast community. The problem with many storeowners not keeping the property in front of their stores clean was also discussed and how the City is not enforcing existing codes that would help solve the littered appearance. Ms. Custer also mentioned the bike trail in the Shields Road area as heavily littered and in need of street baskets. This prompted a discussion on the limitations associated with funding for the purchase and collection of these baskets. It was decided that the major issues of concern were there were not enough trash receptacles in front of stores and storefront litter enforcement was not happening. The CAC decided to have this litter problem as a future agenda item for discussion/recommendation after the street sweeping/adopt a spot and alternate side street parking pilots were implemented.
- Dr. Abrams reported that the trash dumpsters behind Kiln Creek elementary school routinely overflow creating a litter problem in the community.
- Ms. Custer reported that 700 youth at Woodside High School signed up in support of an anti-drug/violence program.

Meeting adjourned

6:55 p.m.