

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

October 19, 2004

Fountain Plaza Building

CAC Representatives Present

Ms. Lois Custer

Ms. Kathy Dennehey

Ms. Sharyn Fox

CAC Representatives Absent

Dr. Harold Cones

Ms. Inettie Edwards

Mr. Arthur Keyes

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

Mr. Gus Owens

Ms. Artistine Reid

Public Works Representatives

Dori Brown, Solid Waste Division

Reed Fowler, Administration Division

Tony Risk, Street Maintenance Division

Call to Order

5:33 p.m.

September 21, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Approval of the September meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum to conduct business.

Youth Representative

The Office of Youth Development (OYD) has identified a youth to serve on the CAC. Once the application is received, it will be forwarded to the City Manager for review/approval. This youth has been invited to attend the next CAC meeting on November 16. The OYD is still looking for a second youth representative to serve.

Street Sweeping

Tony reviewed the trends in curb miles swept per zone from the street sweeping report that was distributed at the September 21, 2004 meeting.

CAC Open Discussion

CAC members were asked to bring forward any street sweeping issues for discussion. Members brought up the following concerns/recommendations:

- Leaves are being swept to the curb several days/weeks prior to when the street sweeping begins. It was recommended that more active education explaining the physical and environmental dangers associated with leaf piles in ditches and swept down storm drains. One member suggested the City consider year round bagged leaf collection. Mr. Fowler explained that year round bagged leaf collection would be more expensive than the current program.

- CAC members asked if gutter guards were ever considered to trap leaves before entering storm drains and drop inlets. Mr. Fowler explained that gutter guards have a tendency to become clogged during major storms and create more problems than they solve.
- CAC members recommended that the City look into the ordinances relating to leaf collection to order to identify the timeframe when leaves can be placed in the street prior to collection.
- CAC members believe most residents don't realize the effects of sweeping leaves into the curb too soon. CAC members were informed that they could report neighbors to Mr. Risk at 269-2803 for investigation. Mr. Fowler also said he'd have our public relations staff person, Dee Bryant, develop an education campaign addressing the environmental and safety issues associated with leaf collection as well as to reinforce the importance of following city ordinances pertaining to when to place leaves curbside.

Director's Follow-up Report

In response to questions raised at the September 21 CAC meeting, Mr. Fowler provided the following information:

- Bulk Waste Recommendation letter: Mr. Fowler will be meeting with the City Manager next week to discuss the bulk waste issue. CAC members suggest that if the City does adjust the bulk waste collection schedule that it follow the recycling every other week collection schedule if possible.
- Staff distributed copies of Chapter 19, the City's Solid Waste Code, in response to the CAC members questioning of business owner's responsibility in regards to cigarette litter on their property. Staff explained that the Business Recycling Coordinator will be more actively pursuing educating businesses on the availability of ashtray receptacles to combat such littering as well as informing those businesses of the ordinances pertaining to keeping their property free of litter.
- Based on CAC recommendation at the September meeting, on the City of Newport News website, www.nngov.com, an "Information for New Residents" link will be added that contains all of the relevant Public Works information (garbage and recycling collection, street sweeping schedules, ordinances, etc) that a new resident needs.

Meeting adjourned

6:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, November 16, 2004 at 5:30 p.m.

Reminders:

- The November meeting will take place in the York Conference Room (two doors down from the James Conference Room on the first floor in Fountain Plaza).
- The November meeting will be our "holiday" meeting. Tokens of appreciation and a selection of appetizers will be provided.