

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, November 15, 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 Miller

Ms. Talysa Parker

CAC Representatives Absent

Ms. Ciara Reid

Ms. Artistine Reid

Public Works Representatives

Ms. Dori Brown, Solid Waste Division

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

Mr. Tony Risk, Street Maintenance Division

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Lois Custer presented Chairperson Sharyn Fox with the gift of an engraved gavel as a gift of appreciation on behalf of the CAC committee.

Approve Meeting Minutes

A motion made by Thomas Herbert and seconded by Sharron Kitchen Miller passed to approve the October 18, 2005 meeting minutes with changes.

Sewage Overflow Issue

Reed Fowler informed the CAC in great detail about the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) federal intervention into municipality sewer maintenance programs. The EPA wants cities to sign agreements requiring them to spend millions of dollars to update and fix old sewage systems. The EPA wants localities to sign agreements by the fall of 2007. Localities would then have three years to identify problems and up to another 10 years to fix them. There has been no identified funding to aid in these upgrades. Mr. Fowler stated that he would keep the CAC updated on this issue as it further develops. An article that recently ran in the *Virginian Pilot* about this issue will be forwarded to the CAC.

City of Newport News *Project Clean Sweep* Final Recap

Due to time constraints, the issue was tabled. A summary report will be mailed to CAC members.

Residential "Street Sweeping" Pilot Program

A draft letter supporting the pilot street sweeping program to be submitted to City Manager Ed Maroney from the CAC was distributed to the CAC for review and approval. Once grammatical edit suggestions are incorporated, the letter will be forwarded to Chairperson Sharyn Fox for signature. The CAC as a whole was in support of the letter with edits as submitted.

Tony Risk reported that he had met with Lois Custer and all of the necessary signatures and petitions have been submitted. Mr. Risk displayed a full size map of the street sweeping pilot area for CAC review and discussion. Staff discussed the placement of signage (both alternate street sweeping signs and adopt-a-spot signs) and suggestions for ideal placement were made. The adopt a spot signage would be permanent as long as residents picked up litter on their streets, but the alternate street sweeping signage would be installed and removed/moved as needed. The CAC requested that the pilot street sweeping map be placed on the Public Works website. Other discussion centered around how to measure the effectiveness of the pilot. It was proposed that the street sweeping pilot program would run for a two-year time frame to allow for adequate time to gather statistics.

It was suggested that Public Works implements an extensive outreach campaign at the kickoff of the street sweeping pilot by arranging for City Council attendance, news media coverage and press releases.

Litter Issue

Due to time constraints, the issue of the litter problem in the city was table until the February meeting. Staff did report resolution to the litter issue at Kiln Creek as reported by Dr. Abrams.

Other Issues

- Sharyn Fox requested that the Bulk Waste issue be re-examined by the City and an agenda item in February. Dr. Abrams suggested the City investigate call in systems currently being implemented in other Virginia localities. Staff will bring data from the City of Richmond in regards to their bulk waste call in system. Staff will also re-distribute the bulk waste letter that the CAC submitted to the City Managers office and other relevant bulk waste research to the February meeting for the benefit of the newer members.
- The 2006 CAC Retreat will occur in the Fall of 2006
- Reed Fowler informed the CAC that Chapter 19 Solid Waste ordinances would be reviewed by City Council in December.
- The November 15th CAC meeting is the final meeting for both of the CAC Youth Representatives. Talysa Parker's term expires 12/17/05 and Ciara Reid's term expires 1/18/06. both were thanked for their service. The Office of Youth Development has been contacted to recommend two new youth representatives.
- The CAC agreed that in place of the next scheduled meeting, the CAC would hold the public forum for the street sweeping pilot. All CAC members are encouraged to attend to show support and answer any questions. The public forum is going to be set for Tuesday, January 17th. Lois Custer will secure Richneck Elementary School as the location.

Meeting adjourned

6:55 p.m.

NOTE: Since the November 15th meeting, the street sweeping pilot program public forum has been set for Tuesday, January 17th at 7:00 p.m. at Richneck Elementary School located on Tyner Drive pending approval by the City Manager to conduct such a pilot study.