

Citizens Advisory Committee on Solid Waste

Minutes

May 21, 2013

Public Works Conference Room

7:30 PM

Attendees: Cathy Lemmon, Illana Naylor, Russ Tozar, Nin Gribov, and new member Colleen Burroughs and Sue Lhotka.

The meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by Sue Lhotka, Refuse & Recycling Coordinator. Minutes were distributed to each member, and therefore not read aloud. Cathy Lemmon made a change to the minutes. A meeting had been scheduled for April 21 instead of April 2. Sue Lhotka had not returned from medical leave at that time.

Sue Lhotka reported:

- Calendar has been sent to print. Timing was better if the calendar was changed to 2014 instead of 2013.
- Recycle rate for 2012 is 40.5% which is a slight dip from the previous year. Figures vary per year and this year, some businesses reported lower trash and recycle figures. Looking over the spreadsheet, Sue remarked that curbside collection increased from 30.75 % last year to 31.72 % this year. Even this modest increase is good. If new unreported figures are obtained, Sue will report it to DEQ. Being under 100,000 population this is the last year that the City is required to report its recycling rate to the state for the next four years. Sue gave a summary of why this change was instituted by the state. She said that she will continue to obtain recycle figures because it gives the City direction, helps to set goals, and improve programs. Compatriots at the Virginia Recycling Association conference said that they will continue to report, required or not. Sue also said that the original jurisdiction that complained about the reporting requirement still has to report because they are a part of a larger Solid Waste Management group that still has to report its rate.
- Sue reported on her attendance at the Virginia Recycling Conference in Virginia Beach. She indicated that the Norfolk area is experimenting with RFID tags on carts for better communications for outreach programs. Fairfax County has almost finished re-vamping its website to make it ADA compliant. Because Cathy Lemmon has direct knowledge of this program, she informed the rest of the committee about how this was done and why. Another big topic at the conference was China's new policy called the "Green Fence". This affects any recycle materials exported to China. Their complaint is that the US is sending too much contaminated recyclable materials. Their inspection of cargo has stalled imported materials so it has reduced its import by 5 %. Another topic that was informative was a discussion of commodity markets- glass, metals, paper. All were complaining about single stream and contamination. Food composting is becoming an increasing topic for regions. Prince William County is conducting a pilot study at Balls Ford Road Composting facility using food from restaurants. Food waste is the next component of trash to be "recycled".
- "Know Toxics" program developed by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission Recycling Committee has had 2 training sessions this year. This program covers what is covered under "toxics" and how to handle them for businesses and schools. Russ Tozar indicated he was interested in attending a training session. Sue remarked that she needs to engage City businesses in this program.
- Pilot Study- City staff will be conducting a pilot study using carts for trash in FY2014. Storage of carts in townhouses will be an issue.

Old Business:

Solid Waste Ordinances- City staff is still working on Chapter 98, Solid Waste. A total re-write has been finished with additional changes made to the format. Sue removed the paragraph on scavenging. That prompted a discussion about scavenging in the City. City staff is having a meeting on May 28th and Sue will email the final to the committee for their comments. The goal is to have final changes completed by June, ready for City Council.

Stormwater Management – VDEQ recently changed stormwater management requirements for all those holding permits. Cathy Lemmon said that the state has asked jurisdictions to maintain stormwater ponds on public and private property which has caused smaller jurisdictions to complain about the cost and liability. City staff is meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd to discuss the new requirements so Sue will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Nina Gribov suggested that the committee continue with the rain barrel truckload sale.

New Business: No new business was indicated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Lhotka

Sue Lhotka
Refuse & Recycling Coordinator