

**BREVARD COUNTY
RECYCLING CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date and Time: November 18, 2004, 10 AM

Location: Brevard County Solid Waste Conference Room, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Bldg. A, 1st Floor

Members Present: Hillary Arena, Brian Blenis, Bette Danse, Bonnie DeCaro, Patty Goffinet, Judy Renaud, Pam Shoemaker, Amy Tidd, Craig Yoder

Members Absent: George Geletko, Jim McMenemy, Mike Shaffer

Staff: Mary Kane, Erin LeClair, Dick Martens

Guests: Phil Danse, J. J. Finley

Minute Taker: Mandy Guppenberger

Quorum Present: (X) Yes () No

Call to Order Patty Goffinet called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
Ms. Shoemaker called the roll.

Introduction Ms. Shoemaker introduced Mr. Dick Martens, Director of Utility Services. Ms. Danse asked Mr. Martens and Ms. Shoemaker about the department's on-line web page and that when you want to order a recycle bin on-line, it asks the person to choose their collector – USA Waste or Harris Sanitation. Ms. Danse stated that she was told they no longer are called Harris Sanitation. Ms. Shoemaker responded that they are still considered divisions of Waste Management and it is helpful to the residents that have lived here who know them by those names. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would ask George Geletko about the names.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Danse made a comment on the minutes from the November 9, 2004 meeting. On page 2, item #3, as part of the discussion of the committee, she had asked whether mixed paper was being collected other than just white paper. She stated that the comment was not put in the minutes. Ms. Shoemaker stated that Mr. Blenis would be giving a report on the paper issue at today's meeting. Ms. Danse asked to amend the minutes to add:

“Ms. Danse noted that mixed paper is now being picked up at some of these facilities.”

Ms. Danse mentioned that Mike Shaffer has missed three meetings and has not contacted anyone about attending. She asked if the committee could find out if he intends on coming or if Commissioner Pritchard could assign an alternate. Ms. Shoemaker stated she would look into it.

Action

Ms. Danse moved to accept the minutes as amended. Ms. Tidd seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Mr. J. J. Finley from SP Recycling Corp. gave a report on magazine recycling to the committee. Mr. Finley stated that they had placed four containers at the libraries last February. He stated that since that time, they have picked up two of the containers, which contained about 18,000 pounds (9 tons) of material. The material consisted of magazines, newspapers and mixed paper. Mr. Finley also noted that SP Recycling is willing to expand the project to other libraries that are interested. Ms. Shoemaker stated that there are not too many other libraries that have space available to hold a recycle container and asked Mr. Finley if SP was open to using other locations; Mr. Finley agreed. He also noted that SP is continuing to expand the collection system for newspapers.

Ms. Shoemaker asked Mr. Finley if his corporation would be willing to come up with some kind of a poster that could be posted in the libraries or other locations to make people aware that there is a recycle bin there. Mr. Finley suggested on having a contest for students to come up with posters. He stated that maybe each library could sponsor a contest and give away a prize. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would talk with the libraries and asked if the committee thought it would be a good idea. She stated that the contest could be done by April (Earth month) and that would be a good time to announce the winners.

Ms. Shoemaker asked Mr. Finley to inform the committee on how the magazine recycling is going; how Brevard County is doing on recycling magazines. Mr. Finley stated that SP is shipping out about 50-75 tons a month from their facility on Harper Road.

Ms. Tidd asked about the poster contest and should the posters say what mixed paper is. Mr. Finley stated that the posters should list what would be taken in the containers. Ms. Tidd asked especially about envelopes and the plastic windows. Mr. Finley stated the plastic material from the envelopes is the largest contaminate SP has. Ms. Shoemaker stated that you could always tear the plastic window out of the envelope before you recycle it. She also noted that if the material is glassine and not plastic, it can go in the recycle bin. Mr. Finley stated what happens in SP's process is that the glassine will break up and because of centrifugal force, it goes out. When the plastic breaks up, because it has no weight like the glassine, it stays in the system. Ms. Tidd stated that the posters could state not to recycle envelopes with plastic windows. Ms. Danse stated that the posters could also state to remove the plastic windows. Mr. Finley stated that the simpler you make it, the easier it is for the public.

Ms. Goffinet stated that there are still libraries that SP is still willing to put containers at. Mr. Finley stated that SP would put containers wherever there is a need for one. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would speak to the libraries on this. She stated again that libraries are limited on parking space. She noted that all the libraries do recycle their magazines whether they have a recycle container or not. Ms. Shoemaker stated that the Government Center had a recycle container for magazines in the parking lot but it was not used. She noted there is a cardboard recycle container in the parking lot for employee and public use. Ms. Shoemaker stated that the bins should be placed where they will be most effective because SP has expenses associated with these containers. She stated that there were magazine bins at Miracle City Mall in Titusville at one time but the mall called SP and asked that they be removed. People were using the bins as garbage dumps. Ms. Danse asked if it would be possible to have a trash container next to the recycle bins so the public has a choice. Mr. Finley stated that SP does not provide garbage containers because they are not licensed to haul garbage. Ms. Danse asked Ms. Shoemaker if the libraries could provide some kind of garbage container. Ms. Shoemaker stated that people are not throwing any kind of garbage in the recycle containers at the libraries.

Ms. Shoemaker stated that there are 16 bins located

throughout the county from Titusville to Palm Bay for magazine recycling. Ms. Danse asked if it would be possible to have a sign at the Government Complex in Merritt Island so the public knows there is a recycle container there. Mr. Finley stated that it is possible to have a sign there but then there is the problem with city sign ordinances. He stated that he would be will to do a campaign sign but he has found out in the past that city and county ordinances have come down with their regulations. Ms. Danse asked about a sign on the building with an arrow pointing in the direction of the recycle container because there is nothing there to indicate there is a recycle container there. Ms. Shoemaker stated that all signage has to be approved by County Administration before anything can be done. Ms. DeCaro asked if a sign could be put up with an arrow and Recycling printed on it. Ms. Shoemaker said there are many regulations with putting up signage. Ms. Danse stated that the problem at the county complex in Merritt Island is that you can visit the offices there and have no indication that there is a recycle container at the facility. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would look into the signage.

Action

Ms. DeCaro moved to have an action item that Ms. Shoemaker comes back to the committee with information on signage. Ms. Danse seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Goffinet confirmed with Ms. Shoemaker that she would be contacting the libraries again about recycle containers. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would speak with Cathy Schweinsberg, Director of Library Services about it. Ms. Goffinet asked if the committee could also move towards putting recycle containers at the schools. Ms. Shoemaker stated that Mr. Blenis would be the one to speak to about that. Ms. Renaud suggested using community centers for placement of containers. Ms. Shoemaker noted that there has been a new placement of a magazine container at the First Baptist Church off of Fay Boulevard in Port St. John. Ms. DeCaro asked about a container in the Barefoot Bay area. Ms. Goffinet asked if there was a map that pointed out locations of the containers. Ms. Shoemaker showed the committee a map and noted that the Port St. John location was the only one that had not been added to it. Ms. Goffinet asked that by looking at the map, would the committee be able to

determine where new bins would be most useful. She asked if there would be any county facilities or schools around the area that would be willing to have a container to help keep the contamination down. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she is considering having another drop-off site at the Government Complex in Viera for all commodities but she has to talk with the Facilities Department about it.

Ms. Danse asked Mr. Finley if it would be possible to get an idea of the increase in the improvement of tonnage of recycling from August 2002 to August 2003 vs. August 2003 to August 2004. Mr. Finley stated that SP would provide a report on tonnage for August 2003 to August 2004.

Discussion

Mr. Blenis gave his report on recycling in the schools. He commented that schools are just as constrained as the libraries with space issues and that is why there are not many schools that volunteer to place a recycle container at their site. He stated that the letter that was sent over to the School Board from the committee did end up in his office and a lot of things were taken under consideration. They knew that plastic bottle recycling was going to be a cost to the district and some preliminary calculations were done based on information that was gathered from Rockledge High School. Based on the start up cost of the program and the continued operating costs that the school board had calculated at that time, the Energy Office felt that in terms of plastic bottle recycling it was not really in the school district's interest to do it. They felt it would be better to negotiate with the Pepsi Company, who holds the vending machine contract, to change the containers over to aluminum cans. Mr. Blenis stated that it is a five-year contract and they are only in year 3. He stated that the paper recycling was also examined. There are several different programs going on in the schools. They wanted to come up with programs that were very easy to implement and that cost the least.

Mr. Blenis stated that two programs were recommended to the Superintendent, one being the brown paper bag program. Mr. Blenis stated that program is a mixed paper collection where you take the brown paper bag and put it in the cardboard bin. The purpose of the paper bag is to contain the paper when it is dumped into the truck so that it does not fly all over. Mr. Blenis noted that the only

expense the school has with this program is that the cardboard container needs to be larger than the current one, or it needs to be emptied more often. At this time, he is not aware of any container that has had to be changed out. He stated that this program was recommended more for the elementary and secondary schools. Surveys of the schools were done to see how the program was doing and there were about 50 to 55 schools recycling out of about 84 schools. He also noted that all the schools now have cardboard bins.

Mr. Blenis stated that back in January, he went to the Superintendent with the proposals and the plastic bottle recycling was not accepted. He was told to go back and work out a new program. Last month, Mr. Blenis went back to senior staff and laid out the plastic bottle program to them and recommended that the program only be done in the high schools. At this time, they are in the process of getting materials together for the program to implement in January 2005. The start-up cost per each high school will be about \$1,500 and there will be an annual net cost of about \$500/\$600 depending on how many totes have to be placed at each school. They will be using the 96-gallon totes. Ms. Shoemaker asked if there would be any aluminum cans, or would it be all plastic bottles. Mr. Blenis stated that it would be all plastic; there is no aluminum. Ms. Goffinet asked if the schools would be specifying aluminum cans when the current contract runs out. Mr. Blenis stated that they have been speaking with the vending companies, but the companies make more money from the plastic bottles. They also give the school district a lot of money to allow them to place the machines in the schools. Mr. Finley asked Mr. Blenis what kind of volume of plastic recycling does he expect from the high schools. Mr. Blenis stated that based on the numbers from Rockledge High School last year, they recycled 1 bottle per student per week for the school year. There were about 53,000 bottles that were recycled from that high school.

Mr. Blenis stated that a lot of progress has been made during the period of time from when the committee made its recommendations. Sue Marx, Energy Coordinator and her associates were working with the schools on finishing the cardboard recycling and starting paper recycling before it became a district requirement. Ms. Danse asked if there were a list of schools that were doing the paper recycling.

She stated that she had done a random sampling, calling some of the schools, and some of the schools main offices had paper in the garbage containers. Mr. Blenis stated that they do not expect 100% participation. He stated that they have surveyed some of the principals and not a lot of them are aware of what is going on in their school. Ms. Danse asked how difficult it would be to get all the schools on board with recycling paper. Ms. DeCaro asked if some kind of incentive program for the schools could be added to the list. Mr. Blenis stated that they have been trying to get incentives established for energy conservation for several years. He stated that they are working on incentives, but the way the school district is administered financially is that the schools are not really accountable for their costs.

Ms. Goffinet asked Mr. Blenis if there were anything that the committee could recommend to help the schools along. Mr. Blenis stated that really the only thing that would help would to make recycling more economically attractive. Ms. Tidd asked about the committee recommending aluminum can recycling. Ms. Shoemaker stated that would be a purchasing decision the schools would make and that the committee has already recommended aluminum can recycling. The schools are aware of it, and they are aware of the environmental impact. Ms. Tidd and Ms. Danse stated that they did not remember the committee ever actually recommending to the school board to recycle aluminum cans. Ms. Tidd stated that the committee had discussed it, but did not actually recommend it. Ms. Danse read aloud the committee's recommendation to the school board and stated that the committee did not specify aluminum. Ms. Goffinet stated that maybe the committee needs to look at plastic vs. aluminum in recycling costs.

Ms. Arena noted that the two high schools in Titusville have extracurricular clubs that collect aluminum cans and they have separate, caged in areas on the campuses where the students keep them to help fund their activities. She stated that there are recycling efforts at the schools. She noted that by doing this, they are not expending any profits because there are students, teachers, and janitors to help with turning in cans instead of having a company and their costs to collect the cans. Ms. Shoemaker and Mr. Finley added that the real goal is just to get the schools to recycle. Ms. Arena asked Mr. Blenis how many 96-gallon totes each high school would need for the plastic bottle

recycling. Mr. Blenis stated that from a survey they did at Satellite High School, that school would need 5 totes with a once a week pickup.

Ms. Goffinet asked if the committee's recommendation to the school has been completed or if there were any other recommendations that could be made to help out more. Ms. Tidd suggested writing another letter to the school board from the committee to let them know how pleased the committee is with the efforts. Mr. Blenis stated to send the letter to the Energy Office.

Action

Ms. Tidd moved to send another letter from the committee to the school board stating how pleased the committee is with their implementation of the recommendation. Ms. Arena seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Ms. Danse mentioned to Mr. Blenis and the committee about Kennedy Space Center Federal Credit Union and their willingness to offer schools money for recycling. Mr. Blenis stated that now that they have recycling programs established, the schools would be calling the credit union. Ms. Danse read aloud to the committee the email she had received from the credit union on helping the schools.

Ms. Shoemaker talked about a letter that Ms. Danse had written to the County Commissioners about having the Clerk to the Board check the verbatim minutes of the board meeting on August 26, 2003. The recommendation that the committee made to the board was to reconvene the committee in 12 months to review the implementation of the recommendations. Ms. Shoemaker stated that as it was passed in the verbatim minutes, it says the committee will reconvene every 12 months. Ms. Shoemaker gave each committee member a revised copy of the memo from the Clerk to the Board. She noted that the committee will meet every 12 months unless the committee decides to change the recommendation.

Next Meeting

Ms. Shoemaker stated that she has asked Steve Stultz from the Purchasing Department to speak to the committee about the Green Procurement Policy, which was approved on March 2, 2004. She provided each member with a copy of the policy. She also stated that Mr. Rodriguez will be speaking to the committee about Individual Calculations.

Ms. DeCaro asked Ms. Shoemaker if there were meetings that are held with people from the cities to go over recycling. Ms. Shoemaker stated that meetings are held a couple times throughout the year, but it is also very difficult to get every city together. Ms. DeCaro asked if the committee could invite the cities to one of the RCAC meetings. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she meets with them and will give them copies of the recommendations. Ms. Danse stated that it would be a good idea to invite the cities to the RCAC meetings. She also stated that some of the committee members could be invited to attend the meetings that Ms. Shoemaker has with the cities. Ms. Shoemaker stated that she would talk with Mr. Rodriguez about that.

The next meeting will be on December 2, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Solid Waste Conference Room.

Adjourn

Action

Ms. Arena moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Renaud seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

*Patty Goffinet
Chairperson*

*Mandy Guppenberger
RCAC Minute Taker*

Minutes Approved