

Athens-Clarke County  
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the  
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, February 17, 2016

**Location of Meeting:**

Solid Waste Administrative Office  
725 Hancock Industrial Way  
Athens, Georgia 30605

**Present at Meeting:** Commissioner Jared Bailey, Jared Harper, Larry Dendy, Michael Brugger, and Suki Janssen.

On February 17, 2016, the quarterly meeting of the Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee of Athens-Clarke County was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed by Commissioner Jared Bailey.

**I. Consideration of Open Issues**

**1. Public Comments:**

No public present at today's meeting.

**2. Committee Comments:**

- Committee member Larry Dendy, customer of Republic, brought to the committee's attention a question after receiving a letter from Republic stating that they would no longer be accepting glass; however, after reading an explanation in the newspaper that Suki Janssen stating that Republic had promised to send their customers' a letter saying they were wrong and glass would still be accepted from Athens customers he understood. As of this date, he has not received anything from Republic and was disappointed they haven't responded as Suki stated.

Suki stated that she had heard that Republic normally mailed their customers information during their billing cycle and requested that Mr. Dendy inform her if an explanation is included in his next bill in April.

- Larry Dendy gave a tip of the hat to Suki for holding a class for the UGA Ollie program for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. He wanted to publicly thank her and applaud her for a really great job in providing useful and important information to the 10 people that participated, in addition to giving a general overview of recycling in solid waste, she providing a tour of the Landfill, MRF, and is offering to take the group to visit the CHaRM.

## II. Approval of Minutes

Due to malfunction of the recorder used at the last meeting held on November 18, 2015, minutes were not transcribed for approval at today's meeting.

## III. Reports

### 1. **Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB)**

Suki Janssen read an overview of a report as printed by Stacey Farrell. **See Attachment 1.**

### 2. **Recovery Material Processing Facility (RMPF)**

- Suki reported that tonnage is still up and projects that approximately 24,000 tons will come in this fiscal year by 1,005 tons per month.
- Suki explained that the recycling markets are the worst they have been in 20 years and it doesn't seem to end. The market is bad for several reasons:
  1. When petroleum prices are down then recycling always drop with those petroleum prices, particularly plastic.
  2. Too much supply and not enough demand.
  3. Flexible packaging – ex: baby food jars, sour cream containers, etc., are changing from glass jars to packing. A lot of companies are moving to flexible packaging. This item is affecting recycling because it is not recyclable and is taking the place of materials that were recyclable and has a better environmental footprint because it is cheaper and doesn't cost as much to ship. Therefore, it hurts recycling because we are not getting as much material that is recyclable.
  4. The move to Single Stream and Roll carts has made contamination a big issue. The MRF have multiple stations to pull contamination out and move people and are surrounding people at the conveyor belt picking contamination out to be able to make the best bale possible to make money.
- **Additional Information:**
  1. The Recycling Division staff will be directing their focus on education in the coming months.

2. Suki submitted a proposal to the Manager's Office requesting money to be placed in the Recycling Division operation budget to pay for processing fees.
3. Staff will be submitting a proposal to Mayor and Commission on ways to research how else to pay for the recycling program, put together a package that would show if we increase waste minimization fees by x's numbers to cover our cost, what that number will be, etc.
4. Staff will be looking for ideas from other staff and other professionals.
5. Staff will ask for community input.

### 3. **Collections Report**

Suki Janssen read an overview of a report as printed by Andrew Bielecki.  
**See tonnage Attachments 2.**

### 4. **Landfill Report**

1. Tonnage remains at approximately 300/tons a day.
2. Compost Sale – May 2016. The cost \$6.00 pickup truck load.
3. The Landfill Operator and Compost Operator - attended the US Compost in Jacksonville, FL in January. They have been assigned to research food scrap composting and ways to control odors
4. Receiving a new 25 yard articulating dump truck this year.
5. The Manager's Office has requested Landfill staff to conduct a citizens meeting to make them aware on how we deal with odor and the new equipment that we have to help reduce the odor.

### 5. **CHARM Report**

CHARM – Grand Opening in April

- Balers in process of being installed
- Trees planted
- Beautification is still a work in process

6. **Other Business**

1. Jared asked if there was value to storing bales until markets improve.
  - Suki responded that we don't have extra storage but would ask ReCommunity.
2. Jared wants to expand committee to include other people.

7. **Schedule Next Meeting Date**

May 18, 2016. Location will be announced later.