

Athens-Clarke County
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Location of Meeting:

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

Present at Meeting: Commissioner Jared Bailey, Jere Bowden, Michael Brugger, Suki Janssen and Susan Lyon (minutes).

I. Welcome

Commissioner Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.
A quorum was not present (four members).

II. Public Comments

None

III. Approval of Minutes: November 16, 2016

Everyone present reviewed the minutes from the November 16, 2016 meeting. Correction needed to the spelling of Michael Brugger's name and he should be added to those present at the meeting. Jere suggested using members' first names in minutes. A quorum was not present to approve minutes.

IV. Staff Reports

1. Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (Attachment I)

Review of KACCB handout. Down and Dirty clean-ups are for groups looking for a one-time project. The group is assigned to a heavily littered area that needs immediate attention.

Bring One for the Chipper was cancelled due to potential bad weather. Staff members came in and picked up trees that were left at the sites. No volunteers worked the event. The tonnage collected by staff was consistent with past years.

KACCB, in partnership with Landscape Management, planted daffodil bulbs on Loop 10 ramps again this year for their Dr. MLK Day of Service project site. The recycling division chose to clean downtown trash cans, recycling cans, and cigarette butt receptacles as their project site. Suki challenged other department directors to volunteer more in the community on MLK Day. Twenty Directors worked at an illegal dump site on Helican Springs and pulled 420 tires in 1.5 hours. Many ACC staffers were involved in projects all over the community during the day of service. Working with other directors and staffers helps them see the challenges facing Solid Waste and also helps with communication and problem solving between the departments on these issues. The ACC department directors have joined together and adopted Henderson Extension (from Waddell St to Classic City High) as part of KACCB's Adopt-A-Highway program.

The first clean up will be in March. As part of the same program, the Police Dept. adopted Buddy Christian Way.

Tire Amnesty Week will be Feb. 20-25th. Residents are allowed to bring 6 tires per vehicle for free to the CHaRM or the landfill. The program is funded through EPD and the solid waste trust fund in GA. The monies received from the state will be split between Amnesty Week (\$4,500) and right-of-way tire pick ups throughout the year (\$6,500).

2. Recovered Materials Processing Facility (RMPF) (Attachments II)
Our tonnage is down by approximately 1,000 tons compared to last year. The markets are still low but are starting to rebound very slowly.

The CHaRM won the first place waste reduction award from Keep Georgia Beautiful.

Greenlife Expo was held at the ACC Library on January 28, 2017 in the Community Room. Sixty vendors, from local non-profits to vendors for selling goods made from reclaimed materials participated and expressed interest in returning next year. Vermicomposting and felt soap making workshops were given in the upstairs area; educational presentations were given in the theatre; and crafts and a photo booth were available in the children's section, along with a petting zoo sponsored by the UGA Cooperative Extension Service. An estimated 1,200 people attended the expo and was comparative to attendance in past years at the Classic Center. Everyone involved seemed pleased and would like to repeat the event next year.

The recycling division, along with UGA currently has an online recycling survey to gather information about recycling habits, receive feedback on our programs, and gather community member thoughts and comments on waste reduction in the community. The website (https://ugeorgia.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_ePq1VKNSoAbDktT) is active until February 24th.

The next Shred Event is scheduled for April 22nd at the CHaRM. The event averages 300 participants.

3. Collections Division (Attachment III)

In the new FY17 budget, the Athens Downtown Development Authority asked for another downtown litter technician position to be funded and it was approved by Mayor and Commission. The duties of the new technician will be to maintain SW equipment downtown (i.e. trash cans, recycling cans, cigarette butt receptacles). The position will also be responsible for operating the sidewalk scrubber during the week. It took several months to find the right person; however, the position has been filled for approximately a month.

New flat lids have been installed on the ped cans downtown.

The tablets and GPS software are working great for the Collections Division and are helping provide efficient customer service to citizens and tracking routes.

The Solid Waste dept. will host the 2017 Road-E-O sponsored by GA Chapter of SWANA on May 9 & 10, 2017. Currently looking at the landfill and the Georgia Square Mall theatre parking lot for the driving course competitions.

4. Landfill (Attachment IV)

During the second quarter, the landfill is taking in an average of 21,885 tons per month/287 tons daily (including recyclables). The tonnage is down slightly.

During the next year, the decision will be made whether to expand the current landfill or build a transfer station that could possibly be transported to Oak Grove or R & B Landfill. ACC has already purchased 79 acres in Oglethorpe County with the intent to expand. The area does have road frontage with residents. However, the option to build a transfer station will be studied and considered. The conversation will start with this committee at the May meeting before taking the options to the Mayor and Commission.

Jared B. asked if we were generating enough material through the leaf and limb program for composting the bio-solids. He suggested if we ever stop making compost, the material could be sold to pellet companies. Suki stated that we are currently meeting the needs of the compost operation; however, she does have an upcoming meeting regarding the pellet program to get initial numbers.

ReCommunity is developing plans for a new facility to be located at the landfill to replace the current facility, which is 25 years old and very limited in space. We cannot expand on the current property. If the MRF moves to the landfill, the CHaRM would move to the current MRF property.

Methane collection generated \$43,000 in revenue for the year.

GA Power released a RFP in January and due in April for property to place solar panels. It was not enough time for SW staff to prepare and present an RFP to Mayor and Commission; however another RFP will be released in 2018 or 2019 and Solid Waste will be ready. SW staff will meet with a GA Power consultant in April to help prepare for the next RFP. The panels would sit on top of closed landfill cells.

V. Other Business

Next meeting will be May 17th at 5:30 pm at the Solid Waste Administration training room. It is imperative that all members attend since the committee will begin discussing landfill expansion vs. transfer station.

With no further business, Jared adjourned the meeting at 6:22 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Susan Lyon
Amended 02.21.17*