

## **MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, REGULAR MEETING**

**Held at Southwest Solid Waste Authority offices, 318 Ridge Road, Silver City, NM; April 22, 2010.**

**(Minutes prepared by Richard Mahler)**

**Present:** Terry Timme (Chair), Diana Temple (SWSWA), Ramon Arroyo (SWSWA), Alan Archer, Richard Mahler, Ann Alexander, Chuck Fuller, Ron Groves. **Absent:** Deanna Mooney, C.J. Law.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Terry at 3:07 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting as submitted was by acclamation. In response to a question by Chuck, Terry said the minutes are posted on the Town of Silver City website.

### **Discussion of Selection of Committee "Officers"**

While there is apparently no requirement that the committee have officers, Terry noted that he has served as Chair since its inception, adding "I don't want to be Chair for life." He noted that Richard has been keeping minutes, a Secretary function, but does not carry that title. Terry suggested we consider choosing formally a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. Pros and cons were debated and the consensus was that we think about it before the next meeting and make a decision then.

### **Public Input**

There was no public input, although several committee members cited complaints presented to them by the public about recyclables not being picked up or confusion about what should be done with glass.

### **Report from SWSWA**

#### **Diana Temple**

Diana reported on behalf of general manager C.J. Law, who was absent. She presented a copy of a display ad now running in the Daily Press that explains changed in curbside recycling. The ad, which will run three times, was praised for its content and several members suggested a flyer or brochure be produced summarizing its basic message or reproducing the ad as a hand-out. Diana said that these ideas will be considered. She said there have been many calls recently to SWSWA seeking clarification about recycling. Continuing problems include recycle bins not being at the curb by 7 a.m. and glass being mingled with other recyclables. When people put the bins out late, they don't get picked up and this generates complaints. Diana also said that extra bins have been received, about half the 340 ordered through an Alcoa/NM Recycling Coalition grant. The other bins await pick-up.

#### **Ramon Arroyo**

Ramon said he has fielded some complaints and confusion about the \$10

donation requested for the old-style monitors and TVs being accepted at the e-waste event. Apparently, some people believe the \$10 fee is mandatory and that it applies to every single item contributed. This was clarified. Ramon reported that Albert was hurt by a piece of flying plywood early in the week but he was reasonably confident Albert would be well enough to drive the recycling truck to the recycling event on April 24. If not, Ramon will cover for him.

## **New Business**

### **Proposal to Support Cap and Dividend Legislation**

Terry said Councilman Jamie Thomson was seeking committee support for proposed federal legislation to collect fees from permits allowing businesses to release excess amounts of CO2 and to distribute such funds as a dividend to states, apparently to underwrite environmental projects. Committee members supported the idea as briefly outlined, but requested further details, perhaps through a personal presentation by Jamie at a future meeting.

### **Proposal for Recycling Collection on June 26**

Hidalgo Medical Services has requested recycling bins for plastic water bottles it plans to distribute during its Family Fun Day at Penny Park on June 26. About 300 to 400 people are expected to attend. There was some discussion about using the collapsible bins used previously for events at Gough Park. It was noted that plastic recycling bins have disappeared from Penny Park, although Ramon and Diana said they were not pulled by SWSWA. City officials say they did not remove them either. It was speculated that the bins may have been stolen. Ramon agreed to place one of more bins in the park and unload them as part of the regular Grant Street route.

### **Earth Day recycling and e-waste events**

There was a detailed discussion of funding for the April 24 e-waste collection event. Diana estimated that about \$2200 has been spent of the \$5000 contributed by Freeport-McMoRan. She warned that if costs go above \$5000, SWSWA will not be liable for them and the committee will have to cover any difference. It was agreed that, as a result, collection of old-style monitors and TVs should be "capped" if more than 200 are dropped off without accompanying \$10 donations. Terry said that GRIP, fiscal agent and co-sponsor for the Earth Day celebration at Penny Park, has agreed to make up any difference with funds it collects at the celebration. Terry also said he will advise Albuquerque Recycling of our financial situation and keep a count of CRTs accepted so that we do not collect more than we can comfortably pay for.

It was noted that there has been substantial publicity for the e-waste event and Richard was thanked for coordinating this. He circulated a display ad that is running three times in the Daily Press to promote the e-waste event.

Terry presented a graphic suggesting the set-up for recycling collection and traffic flow. A discussion resulted in some alteration of his proposal to smooth access and egress. Concern was expressed about a possible back-up of cars or an overflow of e-waste and strategies for dealing with these contingencies were discussed. Among options is to donate excess computer equipment to a local businessman who already has shown interest in them and to limit the amount of questions asked in a survey of donors if the traffic gets too heavy.

Procedures for the actual process of recycling collection were outlined and assignments made for volunteers on the committee. Terry noted that we will have three people from Albuquerque Recycling on hand as well as four volunteers from

Freeport. There was a general discussion of how to handle money, food, glass donations, information handouts, parking, and scavenging.

### **Ideas to Promote and Educate About Single Stream Recycling**

There was general discussion of ways to publicize recent changes in curbside recycling in Silver City. Diana was praised for the ad recently placed in the Daily Press. The consensus was that we should have updated materials ready to distribute for the April 24 collection event and Chuck volunteered to prepare and print a flyer for the occasion. Diana said there was no money in the budget for such materials and Chuck agreed to cover the cost himself. Both Diana and Ramon expressed disappointment that past materials distributed directly to the public (i.e. taped to recycling bins) did not seem to have much impact. Committee members suggested updating the "refrigerator" list printed on colored stock several years ago. Diana and Ramon agreed, along with committee members, to think about options and present them to C.J. at a future meeting.

### **Open Meetings Act Workshop**

Chuck and Ron summarized their experience attending the recent Open Meetings Act workshop and said most of the Act's provisions do not apply to our committee because of its advisory nature. They emphasized the general need to publicize meetings well in advance and to avoid "rolling quorums," wherein public business is discussed informally outside of scheduled meetings.

### **Other Business**

Ron relayed concerns expressed to him by county residents about the removal of roll-offs in Silver City where these individuals used to drop off their recyclables. Ramon assured Ron that recycling collection is still available at county transfer stations as well as the old recycling center at the landfill. Ramon said steps and signage will be installed to make landfill recycling easier for people who drop off recyclables there.

Richard said he is resigning from the committee in order to attend to pressing personal matters. He said he looks forward to serving as a volunteer and urged the committee to call on him as needed. Terry and others thanked Richard for his service.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is slated for Thursday, June 17, at 3 p.m. at the SWSWA conference room.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.