

Recycling Committee Meeting April 4, 2007

Members Present

Craig Bello
Pat Atkins
Bonnie Parker

Sarah Ginsburg
Tami Sheena

Non-voting Members Present

Todd Gross, Public Works Information Coordinator
Joe Keene, Director of Public Works

Caren Siegalman, a resident interested in the committee attended. She had a question about the black garbage bags that are distributed to all of the residents. She wondered if it would be possible for the bags to be biodegradable. She also requested a more detailed description of exactly what can be picked up at spring cleanup. She suggested that it would be great to add a hazardous waste recycling day to the city calendar.

Communications

- On Thursday, March 8th, Tara White wrote an article for the Houston Chronicle had an article discussing the presentation from David Ritz and Craig Bello to Bellaire City Council
- On Wednesday, March 7th, Charlotte Aguilar wrote an article for the Bellaire Examiner discussed how the recycling center has slowed down a little since curbside recycling was introduced
- The Houston Chronicle had an article about how the City of Houston is charging its residents \$42.00 a year more for recycling and the environment
- The City of San Francisco announced that they are banning plastic bags
- The committee received two e-mails since the last meeting, which were responded to by committee chair Craig Bello

Public Works

- On Wednesday, March 28th, four trucks worth of recyclables were picked up.
- David Ritz gave presentation to City Council
 - Participation rates reflect 35-40% average per recycling per day
 - Recycling center has been cut back by half, the center used to receive 50 tons of recyclables and now it is only receiving 25 tons
- Keeping the recycling center is open and for how many hours is in question
 - It was mentioned that a lot of people that use the center are not Bellaire residents
 - Garbage is being dropped at the center, which is a problem
 - The question was raised of what could be done to improve that whole area

Committee Business

- Guyleene Ebersole left the committee due to moving out of the City of Bellaire
- Meg Healy is termed out

- Pat Atkins is leaving the committee
- Sarah Ginsburg is remaining on the committee

Curbside Recycling

- Canvas bags have been ordered and are due very soon
- E-mail Todd Gross three bids previous to placing any orders
- Educational postcards for new residents need to be ordered, \$100.00 is allotted
- Additional recycling bins need to be ordered
- Sarah Ginsburg is working on can crushers, \$2000.00 is allotted,
- Tami Sheena is working on branding for the recycling trucks
- More magnets need to be produced and sent out to residents

Overall progress and future for curbside recycling

-Grant ends, June 30th

Three major things still need to be done

- 1.) Booth and display, \$2500.00, and a hands on education program to go along with it
- 2.) Video, \$1000.00, we would need approval of a script from HGAC and City Council
- 3.) Wheeled recycling bins, \$1500.00

Vote passed to send \$5,000.00 of grant money back to HGAC

Hazardous Waste

- Harris County information is airing on the public access station
- It was suggested that Bellaire team up with West U. to have a hazardous waste day

E-Waste

- www.technologyrecycler.net is a great place to drop e-waste

Education Events

- April 14th is Spring Fling, volunteers for two shifts are needed
- The BRC will have no Earth Day booth this year
- Upcoming event, 4th of July

No Assisted Saturday is scheduled at this time

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 9th, 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Ginsburg, Secretary