

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 4, 2018

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development Conference Room, 229 West 12th Street. Chair Kester called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Sherie Caffey	Ted Lopez (arrived at 5:30)
Becky Cortese	Jim Sharp
Laura Getts	Alicia Solis
Doris Kester	

Members absent: Gail Conners and Nancy Keller.

Guest present: Katie Davis, Director of Operations and Health Promotion, Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment.

Staff present: Sandy Blanco, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 2, 2018 MEETING

Ms. Caffey moved to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2018 meeting. Mr. Sharp seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2018 EPAC AGENDA

Ms. Cortese moved to approve the October 4, 2018 EPAC Agenda. Ms. Caffey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester stated she wrote a letter to Ms. Sylvia Proud at the Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment informing her they were sad Ms. Finzel-Aldred was no longer a member of EPAC, and asked if somebody would be appointed to take her place. She indicated Ms. Katie Davis would be taking over until somebody was hired, noting she would introduce herself.

Ms. Davis stated she has worked at the Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment for almost 16 years, noting she was the Director of Operations and Health Promotion, and the supervisor over the Environmental Coordinator Program for the past two and a half years. She worked as the Environmental Coordinator before Ms. Finzel-Aldred started, noting she was pretty comfortable and knowledgeable about the program. They were re-evaluating the program to determine what would be best for the community moving forward. She asked the members what they felt was missing in the community or what worked well with the environmental program. They were trying to reach out to as many stakeholders as they could to make sure they had a proposal to the City of Pueblo that made sense.

Chair Kester stated she hoped they would continue the programs for children, noting if they teach them when they're young to recycle, they were more likely to continue recycling when they grew up.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – KATIE DAVIS

Ms. Davis stated they held the Avondale Clean-Up and the Pueblo West Clean-Up in September, 2018. They had 33 participants in Avondale, which was normal; and 84 in Pueblo West, which was lower, but had been on a decline for the past five years. They were currently working on Creek Week and Ms. Caffey did a great job of taking over some of the efforts that Ms. Finzel-Aldred previously did. They had two dumpsters out there right now, and a third to be delivered tomorrow for the Runyon event. The Discount Day at the Landfill would be held on October 13, 2018, noting promotions were going out for City residents.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

There was no report given.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

There was no report given.

OTHER

Ms. Getts stated Pueblo County was selected to host the Colorado Association for Recycling Conference (CAFR). Ms. Cortese stated they changed their name to Recycle Colorado. It was a statewide conference where everybody got together and did break-out sessions on various topics. They would have sessions on manufacturing, how to attract end product users, policy, and education. Chair Kester asked Ms. Getts when the conference would be held. Ms. Getts replied the beginning of summer, noting she didn't have the date. Ms. Davis stated she believed it was June 8, 2019. As the host site, they were required to do some planning and wanted to put a committee together. They would have to locate a venue and do some tours, noting those were the few things they signed up for. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Davis who the contact was, and Ms. Davis replied she was. Mr. Lopez questioned Ms. Kim Whittington. Ms. Davis replied Ms. Whittington was the Program Manager and she was the Division Director. Mr. Lopez questioned how they got involved. Ms. Davis replied they took it on, noting they would have a committee and several other representatives. Recycle Colorado would be coming to Pueblo on October 18, 2018, to look at the Convention Center, and to possibly tour EVRAZ.

Ms. Getts stated Ms. Joy Morauski from the City Public Works Transportation Department was instrumental in helping to get Pueblo Recycle Works up and running. From June 30, 2018 to August 31, 2018, they had approximately 1,300 vehicles, and collected 1.6 tons of plastic, and 4.41 tons of cardboard. The first load of office paper and newspaper was sent last week, noting Roots Recycling, who had the contract, indicated it wasn't a ton of material or a huge quantity. Ms. Cortese stated they had three roll-offs of plastic, one of paper, and one of glass. Ms. Getts stated she didn't have the numbers on glass. Ms. Davis stated they were open from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Lopez stated that was a start. Ms. Getts stated it would be interesting to do follow-up surveys to find out how people heard about it or were using it. Mr. Lopez stated that would've been something that Ms. Finzel-Aldred would've done, and something that Ms. Morauski could do.

Chair Kester questioned if the City had recycling facilities in their offices. Ms. Davis replied Ms. Finzel-Aldred worked with the County to get them up and running, but she didn't remember any conversations with the City. Mr. Lopez stated there was probably some recycling, but not a formal recycling program. Ms. Cortese stated the bid called for a handful of totes at a couple

different locations, but nothing for the City's waste. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Cortese if the City put out a request for a bid. Ms. Cortese replied yes, every three years for the City trash and recycling collection. Ms. Getts stated it was hard for the City because they didn't have a facilities department like the County did. They needed some insight and a contact to encourage recycling with the City. Chair Kester stated it bothered her that people threw so much stuff away that could be recycled.

Ms. Getts stated the Waste Management Team had been discussing end markets, noting there were no end markets for glass and nowhere for plastic or paper to go, which was a huge issue for the haulers. As a community, they could put policies in place that would incentivize end markets. Another recommendation was specific product bans or taxes on specific products that couldn't be effectively disposed of that could only be landfilled, noting that would be a good project for EPAC. Mr. Lopez stated for the EPAC meeting in December, Ms. Getts should provide the minutes from the discussion. Ms. Getts stated they could come up with ideas and discuss what other communities were doing at the policy level. Mr. Lopez stated they did that for the Comprehensive Waste Management Plan and the Waste Study through the grant they received that established the Environmental Coordinator position. Ms. Getts stated they could brainstorm ideas to take to the public and PACOG. Chair Kester asked Ms. Getts if she could prepare an outline of things they could do. Ms. Getts replied she would try, noting she wasn't a waste specialist. The Sustainability Plan Action Team (SPAT) could tackle that at their next meeting, noting Ms. Cortese was the Chair. Ms. Cortese stated at their last meeting, they discussed how they were going to work with EPAC and to present the final product to PACOG. Chair Kester questioned if that was something the members were interested in pursuing, noting they needed to talk about it and the public needed to be educated about the importance. Ms. Cortese stated the cost was a huge part of it too, noting without end markets it would cost more to recycle than it would to landfill.

Ms. Getts stated the lack of knowledge about recycling in general was the barrier and seemed to be one of the focuses of the Waste Management Team. Ms. Cortese stated it would cost a lot of money for a marketing program. Mr. Lopez stated he was a member of the Communities that Care (CTC), noting it was their job to come up with a tag line and would ask them about taking on the task of management of waste. Ms. Getts stated they needed to rethink how they would start effectively spreading certain messages about recycling. Ms. Davis stated it was getting harder to communicate with society. Ms. Solis stated one thing missing was the multi-layer approach for education, noting they only focus on how they recycle. They don't start at the beginning and teach people how to shop or where it goes afterwards. Mr. Lopez stated the Comprehensive Waste Management Plan addressed that. Ms. Getts stated the big conversation now was zero waste, noting that was the more effective direction. They needed to forget the recycling component and skip straight to zero waste, noting it might be a better use of their time to get better results. Ms. Cortese stated without end users it was the better approach now, unless manufacturers were using the products. Mr. Lopez referred to prohibiting plastic bags, noting they could impose a fee that would go towards the cost of disposal. Ms. Getts stated that was a strong policy piece and most people didn't know they couldn't recycle those items. Ms. Cortese stated they could encourage businesses to stop using plastic bags versus mandating the public, noting people didn't like being told what to do. Ms. Getts stated communities had zero waste corridors for businesses and zero waste certifications for various practices. Ms. Cortese stated they could designate those businesses with a gold star. Ms. Getts stated it was pure reward versus being penalized. Chair Kester stated if everybody recycled the way EPAC members did it would make a big difference. Ms. Solis stated it might be a good focus for the Environmental Coordinator to look at systems change in businesses.

Mr. Lopez apologized for being late and questioned the status of the Environmental Coordinator position. Ms. Davis replied the position would be funded by the City through the landfill user fee, and by the County for the County clean-up efforts, noting they had to propose that to the City.

AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 6, 2018 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 229 West 12th Street, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.



Sandy Blanco
EPAC Recording Secretary

SJB