

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JUNE 2, 2011

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, June 2, 2011, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Conference Room, 1001 North Santa Fe Avenue. Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Susan Finzel-Aldred  
Doris Kester  
Ted Lopez  
Charles B. Pelto  
Marvin Reynolds  
Chad Wolgram

Member absent was: Thelma Archuletta.

Staff present was Sandy Blanco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011 AND APRIL 7, 2011 MEETINGS

The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

CHAIR'S REPORT – M. REYNOLDS

Chair Reynolds reported he talked to people in Colorado City and Pueblo West about appointing a representative to EPAC and both of them said they would. He didn't get names from either one of them, noting it would be his top priority in the next two weeks and when he does he would send the members an E-mail. They started holding EPAC meetings every other month because PACOG was doing it, but now PACOG is meeting every month so they need to think about whether they need to meet every month to coincide with PACOG. Mr. David Valdez, the District Manager from Colorado City, didn't think they needed to meet every month just because PACOG was doing it.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – S. FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed the Environmental Coordinator Report covering April and May's activities, noting they were both very busy months. The East Side Neighborhood Clean-up would be held this Saturday, June 4, 2011, at St. Leander's Church from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She received confirmation that Councilman Steve Nawrocki and Councilman Larry Atencio would be in attendance at the clean-up. The big clean-up in April was in Bessemer, noting they saw a drop in participation. They collected 20 full roll-offs of solid waste and three roll-offs of yard waste, which was a good haul. They also collected 240 tires, which was a good number. In May they prepared for the Recyclable Waste Day event which was held on May 14, 2011. It was very successful but they saw a drop of about 100 participants. They had 400 cars as opposed to 500 in 2010. She thanked all the agencies and volunteers that helped out. They also collected over 600 gallons of paint, batteries, and appliances, noting electronics were added this year and they collected 26,000 pounds. The paint was consolidated and given away the next day. The recycle hot line saw a jump in callers in March, April, and May. They're receiving three or four calls a day for events, and people want to know where and how to recycle.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she's been working with Mr. Wolgram and Ms. Kedward on a draft ordinance that Councilman Nawrocki would be presenting to the industry. The solid waste haulers would get a first look at it before going to City Council proceedings. It would require all waste haulers to offer curbside single stream recycling to their residential customers should the customer request it. In addition, the ordinance has wording for the Pay-as-you-Throw system so they'll see how that goes with the haulers. Councilman Nawrocki would be holding a waste hauler forum in June or early July. This Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, she would be attending the Summit for Recycling Conference which is being held in Breckenridge. She serves on the Board of the Colorado Association for Recycling and it looks like a great conference. She would have a Pueblo display booth, auction items, and a big pitch, noting the summit would be hosted in Pueblo in 2012 which is a big deal because it has never been hosted in any location south of Denver. She will attend a session that pertains to issues facing Pueblo over the past few years. It's called "Changing the Status Quo of Solid Waste Collection and Recycling" and deals with organized opposition. It's a panel discussion with private industry, consultants, the City of Ft. Collins, Broomfield, Westminster, and Arvada. Those cities had a lot of opposition to improving their solid waste collection systems and they're going to talk about how it occurred and how they responded effectively. The opposition used strategic tactics and gave misinformation and used questionable tactics in their community. Mr. Pelto asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred when that session would be held. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it's on the agenda for Tuesday, June 7, 2011, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., and encouraged him to attend.

Chair Reynolds stated several people asked about the recycle day in May, noting they were very happy they had someplace to go. Everybody that commented showed up, noting they may not add that much to the numbers but everyone accounted for helps. The Extension Office has received phone calls about the recycling cans on the City sidewalks, stating some of them weren't labeled. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the ones she saw were highly labeled. There are three in a set, noting one is for trash and litter, one is for plastic containers, cans and bottles, and the last one is for paper. It's recycling for the pedestrian traffic. Chair Reynolds stated the label is on the street side and not on the sidewalk side so the people walking down the sidewalk don't see them. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they're managed through the City Manager's Office and it's a one-year pilot project.

#### WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – C. PELTO

Mr. Pelto reported he was the Chair of the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Annual Conference, which was an interesting experience and is back in business with other tasks he's taken on over the past few years. He had nothing new to report at this time, but would be getting back into the water quality issues this month.

Chair Reynolds stated it's been wet in the north and dry in the south of Colorado. Mr. Pelto stated the reports indicated 200% of the anticipated average snowfall in the northern Rockies and Pikes Peak was running between 125% and 150%. Chair Reynolds stated it's been an unusual year and no two were alike.

Mr. Lopez and Ms. Kester arrived at 5:35 p.m.

#### SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated he had nothing new to report.

### OTHER DISCUSSION

Chair Reynolds updated Mr. Lopez and Ms. Kester on the meeting thus far. Ms. Kester reported she talked to somebody at VESTAS about appointing a member to EPAC and would pursue it further. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she tried to contact Fran Alexander at VESTAS a couple of months ago. Ms. Kester stated she has an appointment with her about getting volunteers for other organizations, but EPAC would benefit the most. She apologized for being late, noting she had to work late.

### AGENDA AUGUST 4, 2011

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, August 4, 2011. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would give an update on the draft ordinance from Councilman Nawrocki and follow-up on Public Works' proposal to establish a solid waste enterprise, noting it would get finalized and be on the work session for July, 2011.

Mr. Lopez questioned the proposed ordinance by Councilman Nawrocki. Mr. Pelto replied the waste haulers would be required to offer recycling services. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated Councilman Nawrocki wanted to do something with recycling and resurrected the ordinance from 2005 and asked for input from the Health Department. It would require the waste haulers that are licensed in the City to offer recycling to customers if they request it. It also talks about the variable or volume-based rates. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if she had seen any of the language. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting the advice from the City Attorney was very apprehensive, but Councilman Nawrocki wants to move forward and is planning to invite the waste haulers to a waste hauler forum the end of June, which wasn't a public meeting. Mr. Pelto asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if the EPAC members would be able to attend. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she would send Councilman Nawrocki an E-mail, noting he wants to invite City Council members and the City Manager would be there. Mr. Pelto questioned the 2020 Commission members. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied EPAC would have to wear two hats for 2020 and EPAC.

Ms. Kester stated she attended the Human Relations Commission meeting last night and they talked about a proposed ordinance on substandard rental property, noting one of the Commission member's lives in Eastwood Heights and was upset about the trash that was being dumped in the arroyos. She told him she would mention it at the EPAC meeting, but she didn't know what EPAC could do about it. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated that was ironic, noting she drove out and patrolled that area the day before yesterday. Mr. Pelto asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if she took photos, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes. Mr. Lopez stated there was a public meeting about it yesterday at the library, noting they could have joined in and provided some commentary to the three City Councilmen, one of the City Attorneys, and J. D. Potter from Regional Building. It seemed like a disjointed effort to have two separate meetings. Ms. Kester stated it was their regular meeting. Mr. Lopez stated it didn't cover illegal dumping. Ms. Kester stated it also didn't cover mobile home parks, noting that's one of the things the Human Relations Commission was discussing. Mr. Lopez stated those two things are positive in the sense they might give the impression that something was being done to address the aesthetic problems for rental and unoccupied properties in the City. It's a false sense, noting if it gets passed next Monday it wouldn't go into effect until March 1, 2012. The City Manager has to provide City Council with the financial impact of how the ordinance would be enforced. There's a false positive in a sense that things are going to happen but they won't happen for a while. It was mentioned last night that City Council has been politically unwilling to appropriate funds to support and enhance code enforcement so what's going to happen once the ordinance is passed. From his experience as a Homeowners Association Manager, they have to follow the

process, notify, and give someone the chance to appeal. There are three or four things that haven't been started and City Council is going to consider final passage on Monday. The agencies involved include the Police Department Code Enforcers, Regional Building, Public Works, Zoning Code Enforcement, City Manager, and the Health Department, noting any one of them can do it on their own and there's a process. There are Uniform Building Codes for general housing and commercial properties. The new ordinance would do away with some of the sections of the Uniform Building Code and adopt some new conditions. It's like housekeeping, noting it gets rid of some of the old ties and makes it more modern. It comes down to giving the City's history of complaint driven enforcement.

Mr. Wolgram stated they deal with a lot of housing complaints like landlords not maintaining their properties, noting they would be cut back to do more infestations on sanitary conditions like hoarding. It would reduce their level on housing. Mr. Lopez stated there should be one central agency that handles everything, or one Department, or one head. If one City agency doesn't know what other Departments are doing it could be frustrating. At the October public meeting on code enforcement a comment was made that somebody called and left a message and nothing happened. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they don't have a secretary and if they're out in the field all day and come back to 25 phone calls they get on a list and may not get called back for a long time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Blanco  
EPAC Recording Secretary

SJB