



Communications Office

The City of Morgantown

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Committee of the Whole, March 27, 2012 - Clean Community Concept Presentation II: Solid Waste

by Susan Sullivan, Public Communications Manager

...con't from meeting notes...

Tom Arnold spoke next as the former Chairman of the Solid Waste Advisory Board. (This is technically part 2 of a two-part presentation. [Click here to read notes from the first Clean Community Concept Presentation from February 28, 2012.](#))

Arnold said they've been working on a Clean Community Concept since 2007. He said people from Allied Waste, WVU, neighborhood associations, Property Owner's Association, Mon County Commission and former city councilors were all part of the process. In the coming weeks, Council should see a few ordinances from things they're working on that can give public safety agencies some help as far as implementing laws and rules on nights when things are rowdy, like St. Patrick's Day.

The biggest thing that the Solid Waste Authority wants to change in this endeavor is the residential garbage pickup.

- 1.) Student Housing is an issue that creates problems just by its very nature throughout neighborhoods. Students try to sign up for individual trash service when they live in apartments with 3, 4, 8 tenants. We looked at other cities and we found that apartment buildings or houses with three or more apartments be classified as commercial, which gets the property owner directly involved with garbage service, and can help with storage facilities for trash, like dumpsters and the like.
Friday, March 16th, Tom Arnold drove through Sunnyside and found 17 toters and 3 dumpsters that weren't paid up for their service. He wants to change this by making buildings with more than 3 apartments commercial. That way, they aren't all sign up for individual service, and they're more likely to stay paid up if the trash is included in rent to the property owner. Secondly, he believes there should be a twice-a-week pickup in areas like Sunnyside – clean up from the weekend on Monday afternoon, clean up from the week on Friday would keep trash levels low and lessen the likelihood they find something to set on fire, and not just on football weekends. He said they also need to look at how to set minimum requirements on multi-unit service. One toter will not take care of a building that houses 3 apartments.
- 2.) Commercial Side – SWA has a problem on mornings after bars are open. They set their full toters out on the sidewalk late at night, and then the trash is picked up in the morning. Allied Waste has agreed to get a route after bars have closed, while the buildings are cleaning up, so that trash can go out, get picked up, and toters pulled back in before they lock up for the night.
- 3.) Touching on Recycling – Allied Waste is moving to single stream recycling, which means lots more kinds of materials can be recycled out of the same toter, which will be the same size as the trash toters. Recycling “absolutely can be accomplished” with this movement.

- 4.) Container Laws – Once we put the containers out, we need to enforce when they can go out on the sidewalk, and when they have to be back near the house. Morgantown doesn't start trash pickup until 6 a.m., the same time everyone is leaving for work and school. Everyone in the neighborhoods out at that time draws days out longer for truck drivers who are competing with commuters. Arnold would like to see that trash pick up start much earlier.
- 5.) Delinquent Accounts – a problem. On the commercial side, we'll talk to them about getting account under control. If not, we'll remove the container from the site, and the trash just piles up. It should be up to that customer to pay the fee to get their container back. Sometimes we can wait weeks for payment, and that creates a problem.
- 6.) Move Out – Student move-out is always an issue. Now, student-designated areas pay an extra fee to take their trash to one of six dumpsters that are available 24/7. But then non-eligible people try to throw things away there, too. It is an education matter that we'll handle through education forum. A big thing that will help is the Transfer Station at the industrial Park. Allied is working with DEP to extend hours at the Transfer station for Allied Rolloffs and City trucks.

We're starting to have meetings on the move out – we've had one already, and we have two in April before the program actually kicks off.