



CITY of THE DALLES

313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

(541) 296-5481

AGENDA

OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE

June 14, 2011

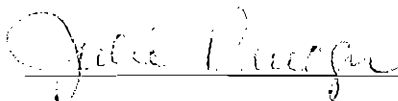
4:00 p.m.

FIRE BAY CONFERENCE ROOM
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 7, 2011
3. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPEN BURNING
4. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting conducted in a handicap accessible room.

Prepared by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk



MINUTES

OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF
JUNE 7, 2011
4:00 P.M.
FIRE BAY CONFERENCE ROOM
313 COURT STREET
THE DALLES, OREGON

PRESIDING: Russ Brown

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Lumper, Teresa Myers, Kathy Heitkemper, Barbara Pashek, Pierce Louis, Doug Tumilson, Karen Murray

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Zukin, Dan Hammel

STAFF PRESENT: City Clerk Julie Krueger

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Winterbottom, The Dalles Disposal, Chuck Stanek, Jack Bartell

CALL TO ORDER

Russ Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Pashek and seconded by Tumilson to approve the meeting minutes of May 31, 2011. The motion carried unanimously, Zukin and Hammel absent.

DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPEN BURNING

The Committee discussed the recommendations submitted by Chris Zukin and Kathy Heitkemper. It was noted that a mechanism for citizens to lodge complaints was already in place and that if a City ordinance was adopted, complaints could also be filed with the City.

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Burn Policy Committee
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Karen Murray asked the Committee if the premise for banning outdoor burning was to improve the health of the citizens or to improve air quality. She suggested the group delay making recommendations regarding open burning until it could be determined whether funding may be available for alternatives to open burning. She handed out information regarding community wildfire protection and said grants may be available to assist with urban fuels reduction programs.

Barbara Pashek said the Committee should submit general recommendations and let the City Council direct staff regarding specific programs.

Pierce Louis said the open burn restrictions could be reviewed in a year and that would allow time to do additional research into alternatives and funding programs.

Pashek said it would be important to provide information from committee discussions to staff so they can review all the ideas submitted. City Clerk Krueger said the committee files would all be turned over to the appropriate staff person for review and to help in development of the programs.

Murray handed out information from the Washington Department of Ecology website regarding alternatives to burning. She noted the State of Washington did not allow outdoor burning within any urban growth areas.

Chuck Stanek said he did not agree with the Committee's proposed open burn seasons because they were the wettest months of the year and that would make it more difficult to burn. When asked if he would consider using a yard debris cart, Stanek said he did not want to use a yard debris cart.

Bruce Lumper suggested the Committee direct staff to combine the recommendations submitted by Zukin and Heitkemper and send to the group for review prior to the next meeting.

It was moved by Pashek and seconded by Heitkemper to direct staff to combine the recommendations submitted by Zukin and Heitkemper and submit the draft staff report to the Committee for review prior to the next meeting.

Heitkemper said it was important that the City Council understand the Committee was willing to continue working on this issue. City Clerk Krueger said she would include language in the staff report to emphasize the Committee's willingness to continue working.

MINUTES (Continued)
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The motion to direct staff to combine the recommendations submitted by Zukin and Heitkemper and submit the draft staff report to the Committee for review prior to the next meeting was voted on and carried unanimously; Zukin and Hammel absent.

Heitkemper handed out a portion of the recently amended Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the City, noting one of the goals was air, water and land resources quality.

Pashek said there were many resources to help people with alternatives to burning. As an example, she said Jack Bissett, working through the Community Action Program, would chop trees for fire wood to be provided to low income people for home heating. She said it was a free program.

Pashek said in Portland, the disposal service allowed a 35 pound bundle of yard debris to be picked up at no cost and that they also provided a 20 gallon garbage can. She asked if that was something that could be done in The Dalles. Jim Winterbottom said the City would have to direct The Dalles Disposal to provide specific services.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Submitted by/
Julie Krueger, MMC
City Clerk

SIGNED:

Chris Zukin, Chair



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THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

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AGENDA STAFF REPORT CITY OF THE DALLES

MEETING DATE	AGENDA LOCATION	AGENDA REPORT #
July 11, 2011	Presentations	

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Julie Krueger, MMC, City Clerk

THROUGH: Nolan K. Young, City Manager

DATE: June.....

ISSUE: Recommendations from the Burn Policy Committee.

BACKGROUND: The Committee was established by Mayor Wilcox, through Resolution No. 11-009, on March 28, 2011. The members of the Committee are, citizen members: Chair Chris Zukin, Doug Tumilson, Teresa Myers, Kathy Heitkemper, Russ Brown, Barbara Pashek; Resource members: Bruce Lumper, DEQ, Dan Hammel, Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District, Karen Murray, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program, and Pierce Louis, Dirt Huggers.

The Committee was charged with identifying proposals and recommendations regarding outdoor burning, including educational programs, mulching, methods to enforce the ban of burning garbage in barrels, seasonal burning programs, weather related burning programs, and promoting alternatives to burning.

In 2010, a request was brought to the City Council by Kathy Heitkemper, to ban outdoor burning in the City of The Dalles. The primary reason for the request was to eliminate serious health

conditions caused by the pollution from outdoor burning. *Smoke from outdoor burning can have serious effects on the health of the community, especially children, the elderly, and those with breathing issues. In addition to harmful substances called toxins, smoke from outdoor burning contains tiny particles that are so small the body's natural defenses can't prevent them from lodging deep into our lungs. These tiny particles not only can damage and change the structure of lung tissue but can also carry toxins directly into our bloodstream. Breathing this smoke can lead to serious respiratory problems, asthma attacks, heart problems and even premature death.*

The Committee has had the support and cooperation of many agencies in developing their recommendations. Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program, and DEQ have all offered their support and assistance in implementation of the recommendations. While it is believed there are many other agencies who would be partners, the Committee did not have direct contact with representatives of other agencies while forming the recommendations.

An example of agency support is that, through Committee discussion, it was noted there was not a way for citizens to dispose of their confidential papers if they didn't have a shredder or could not burn them. As a result of that discussion, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling has added a residential shredding program to their monthly collection events. It is a pilot program which will be evaluated at the end of the calendar year. This is just one example of the partnerships that can be formed to assist citizen's transition from using burn barrels.

The Committee acknowledges that if their recommendations are accepted, enforcement of a new ordinance will be required at some level, to be determined by the City. The Committee believes DEQ and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District would assist by providing education and if a burn ban is implemented, the District would discontinue issuing permits within the city limits.

The Burn Policy Committee believes it would be beneficial to review how things are going after a year of the recommendations being in place. They have agreed to stand available to the City Council to reconvene and to continue working on policies if so directed by the City Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: None at this time. Many recommendations can be accomplished through partnerships. Some recommendations may need a funding source and it is hoped grant funding can be secured for some programs.

COUNCIL ALTERNATIVES:

- 1. Staff Recommendation:** *Move to accept the recommendations of the Burn Policy Committee and direct staff to begin implementation of the recommendations.*
2. Move to accept selected recommendations of the Committee
3. Decline to accept the recommendations of the Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OPEN BURN POLICY COMMITTEE

1. Ban burn barrels.
 - A. Education. Develop educational *material* tools, pieces and messages including an informational document and methods for broad distribution that will inform citizens about *the negative health conditions created by burning trash in burn barrels and about the alternatives to burn barrels including existing recycling, composting and hazardous waste disposal programs.*; *Distribute this information as broadly as possible to include messages on City water bills, Tri-County Hazardous Waste Program literature and direct mail pieces, radio and newspaper PSA's, etc.* regarding reduced garbage fees for senior/low income residents; and Consider expanding the Community Clean Up Day event *to include education elements* and provide information regarding alternatives to burning, and to involve service organizations to help residents who are unable to bring yard debris to a drop off site.
 - B. Alternatives to Burn Barrels. Develop a phase out period of up to one year for burn barrels and develop a program to allow residents to trade their burn barrel for a compost device and/or shredder (for those who normally burn confidential papers) or a certificate for a month of garbage service in trade for the barrel. The Committee recommends seeking *partnerships a grant* to fund this program. Provide drop off sites for shredding in public locations such as City Hall, Senior Center, and Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling. Do not institute burn barrel ban until alternatives have been identified and supplied/funded.
 - C. Upgrades to Garbage Service. Direct The Dalles Disposal to prepare information regarding alternative programs including, but not limited to, universal (mandatory) garbage service; service that would include garbage, recycle and yard debris pick up for one set fee; options for various can sizes; options for bi-weekly pick up; offer a free yard debris drop off day once per week; provide paper shredder at the transfer station for free use by public.
 - D. Burn Ban Boundary. Dialogue with Wasco County regarding extending the City burn ban to the Urban Growth Boundary.
 - E. Removal of Burn Barrels. Solve issue of *disposing of/*collecting old burn barrels. *Inform citizens that there is no charge for dropping off old burn barrels at The Dalles Disposal for recycling. Involve service organizations to help residents dispose of old burn barrels.*
 - F. Partnerships. Work with Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District to implement any changes in burn barrel policy. Work and partner with other agencies and

entities to help provide education, implement alternatives to burning, and possibly fund programs.

2. Restrict Open Burning.

- A. Education. Develop education materials that will inform citizens about the fire dangers and negative health conditions, especially during air inversion days, created by open burning. Distribute information regarding the concerns and alternatives, such as recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal programs, through Tri-County Hazardous Waste Program, direct mail, City water bill, radio and newspaper. Work with Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District to provide education on burning alternatives when burn permits are issued.
- B. Alternatives to Burning. Work to expand the number of free yard debris days with The Dalles Disposal. Explore possible residential drop off at Dirt Huggers. Direct The Dalles Disposal to develop alternative programs, as outlined in recommendation #1,C.
- C. Open Burn Boundary. Dialogue with Wasco County regarding extending the restricted open burn policy to the Urban Growth Boundary.
- D. Partnerships. Work with Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue District to implement changes in open burning policy. Work with DEQ to establish a daily air quality report during open burn seasons. Work with agencies and media to develop a communication policy regarding air quality during burn seasons.
- E. Review. Review implemented policies after one burn season to determine effectiveness of education and alternative programs to burning.