

Trades Advisory Council  
Minutes  
September 8, 2005

Present were Lance Hornbuckle, Gary Ragland, Jim Tamulis, Eba Hobbs, Mike Gregory, Rick Blackburn, Ken Gregory, Richard Smith, Gail McQuiston, Rick Jones, Marcus Knight, Mike Morris, Hal Balthrop, Martha Segal, Roscoe Jones, Robbie Ervin, Gloria Adams and Mary Ellen Jackson

The July Community Meeting was discussed. Decrease in attendance could be due to the time of year. Thought will be given to having next year's meeting in the spring or fall of the year. Other suggestions included adding some type of presentation that could be considered for continuing education hours. Apathy and focus on spending time on events that can be billed could also contribute to the lack of participation. A "canned" seminar for engineers about plans review was suggested to be given at various organizations. Mike Morris, Rick and Ilke will review the feasibility of offering this to the top 20 users of MWS services.

General discussion followed concerning the up-coming focus group sessions for TAC members. Background information about the first focus group was reviewed. Combinations of group and telephone surveys were conducted. The initial effort resulted in the creation of the Plans Review Committee and additions to the Permits staff to streamline the approval process. This survey will be centered on the continued effectiveness of the present TAC structure. The date has not been confirmed.

Members expressed their continued frustration with the lack of communication between MWS and Codes and conflicting rules. An example cited was the Galvanized versus Copper material requirements. It was suggested that a representative of Codes be added to our TAC meetings. Changes in backflow rules and consistency were also a concern. The feasibility of having field inspectors approve variances is not an option for the Department at this time.

The TN One Call policy was discussed by Marcus and Hal. The policy was distributed to the members. The possibility of indexing the TV logs was mentioned. At this time all location requests are to be handled by Permits staff.

Proposed revisions to the Fire Hydrant Policy were distributed and reviewed. Suggestions were made to include guidelines for purchasing meter for builders' water and using an MWS meter for temporary use. If a meter is going to be used for longer than 90 days, the customer would be required to purchase. Specifics will be developed for review at the next meeting.

Gary Ragland displayed a light-weight box that could be used to replace the fiber glass box. The fiber glass box continues to need replacement or repair in 65% of

the installations. This box will be field tested. If it fails in the field test, MWS will replace the boxes that have been purchased by select contractors. Gary Ragland is to arrange the specifics and report at the next meeting.

It was asked that the location of water meter boxes be placed on the next meetings agenda.

The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Customer Service Week celebration. The meeting will be at 11:00 at the Customer Service Center on October 7, 2005. Lunch will follow at 12:30.