



Public Services Sanitation Proposal

Issue:

Today, various aspects of our sanitation/recycling/leaf/debris policies are not meeting the needs of residents or businesses within Hot Springs Village. The change to automated trash pickup, while certainly more efficient, has created a situation where residents are unable to dispose of general household trash that was otherwise collected weekly. In addition, outside the department's \$30 special pickup residents have no means of disposing of this material outside of going to the county landfill. As a result, the special pickup offering is now being stretched to the point there is currently a one month waiting period for pickup. This situation has also resulted in more residents and businesses frequenting the department's Minorca facility and attempting to dispose of these items into the facility dumpsters which are located there only for the deposit of general household trash that would normally be deposited into the resident's home trash can. These issues will only worsen resident's opinions of the department's sanitation efforts and could cause increases in dumping throughout the community which results in even more work and cost for the POA..

In addition to general household trash issues, the department's recycling efforts, currently limited to one morning a week located at the Woodland's parking lot, are not meeting resident demand. Resident's desire to recycle has caused this satellite facility to be inundated with materials within hours of opening. And even after the bins are full residents continue to leave recyclable materials on the ground or just pile the materials into the bins until they are overflowing resulting in more work and cost for the department's staff to clean up the location before leaving.

And finally to complicate matters further the decision at the beginning of this year to move to paper bags for leaf collection has not been well received. The bags are much smaller than previously accepted plastic bags and once they become wet deteriorate quickly leading to leaves being scattered on the ground upon pickup.

Recommendations:

The Public Services Department believes that for our community to be successful we must meet the sanitation needs of our residents and local businesses. In order to attempt to solve the above issues the department recommends the following actions be taken:

1. The receiving area located at our Minorca facility be reconfigured such that residents who need to drop off their general household trash have access to similar trash cans at our facility to deposit their trash. As such current dumpsters will be re-purposed and 96 gallon trash cans will be used instead.
2. Recycling cans and dumpsters will be positioned in the same area as the 96 gallon trash cans so that residents may come to the Minorca facility during limited times, several days a week to drop off their recycling at no charge.
3. The Minorca facility be equipped with adequate dumpsters to begin accepting materials, during limited times throughout the week, for a tipping fee that would normally be collected by the department via special pickups. At this point it is estimated that this fee would be \$25 for residents and \$75 for local businesses. The volume of materials for each load charged would be consistent with what is collected during special pickups and the fee via token could be purchased at the POA building and would be collected at the facility upon agreement with the customer of the volume to token ratio.. Staff at the facility would have sole discretion as to the volume of materials accepted in relation to the number of tokens required for the materials to be accepted. In addition acceptance of the materials would be at the sole discretion of the facility manager based on available space as well as the type and size of the material.
4. The establishment of a special pickup for residential leaves and limb debris at a cost of \$35 per order volume.. Under this scenario the resident would use biodegradable or paper leaf bags only. A size limit of 40 gallon bags would be enforced with a total bag limit of 20 bags and 5 piles of bound limb debris no greater than 3' long by 1' in diameter would be enforced for each special pickup amount collected. Pickups of more than this amount would result in an additional \$35 charge. Staff is evaluating residents ability to use any existing trash cans they owned prior to the automated trash truck roll out but no decision has yet been made.
5. The establishment of a leaf and limb debris tipping fee location at the POA facility known as "The Pit" located off of Terlingua Drive during limited times and days during the week. Under this arrangement residents would be required to continue to purchase tags from the POA which the resident would affix to their bags and debris piles for the facility manager at The Pit to accept them. Amount accepted would be unlimited though subject to the discretion of the facility manager for any reason.

Summary

The Public Services Department believes that by implementing some variation of the above processes, both the residents and department can achieve the necessary balance between cost and convenience for our community.