



Community Advisory Council

December 6, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Jean Barker
Carol Bullock Carpenter
Bill Ford
Kevin Kaiser
Mark Kinnett
Sr. Joan Krimm
Sandy Schoenberger
John Theuring

Guests:

Jennifer Adut
Sparkle Worley
Melanie Brinkman

Facilitator

Kim Lahman

The meeting was held in the second floor conference room at the Rohm and Haas plant. Members had dinner and Kim brought the meeting to order by reviewing the agenda. Mark gave out Cross pens to CAC members in appreciation for their involvement over the past year.

Plant Update (Mark Kinnett)

Safety

- The plant continues to be free of injuries. To celebrate over a year without injuries, R&H held a “Safety Day” on October 30, 2007 at Koenig Park. Employees made positive remarks about the park and its shelter.
- While opening a chlorine railcar on October 31st, a leak occurred through the valve. It was automatically detected and the valve immediately closed. Due to the safety systems working properly, the leak lasted only a few seconds. The Reading Fire Department and other local units responded. There was no danger or impact to employees or neighbors. Extensive follow-up was conducted to verify the source of the leak. R&H worked with the vendor and supplier to make necessary repairs. The repair process went well. Media covered the event.
- On November 5th, Reading Fire Department responded when a light fixture in Building 40 burned out and created smoke.

Environmental (Sewer and Wastewater)

- Sewer:
 - There was one sewer violation. The pH of the wastewater released from the plant was lower than the permit allows for less than a minute. R&H is working with MSD to make repairs. The new stormwater retention project will help prevent future violations as the underground vault system will automatically detect pH deviations or abnormalities and divert water to the vaults and keep it on site.
 - The stormwater retention project will be complete after additional system tests are performed. R&H is waiting for MSD to give its approval. It should be up and running by next week.

Odor Complaints

- The plant received six odor complaints since the last CAC meeting; four in October and two in November. Three of the four in October were east of the plant and the two in November were south of the plant. Half of the odor complaints were correlated to plant activities.
- R&H used a new scrubber solution over a period of several days, trying four different applications. The test results showed that there was no significant improvement in reducing the odors with any of the four applications.
- R&H has identified two compounds that are odor sources, hydrogen sulfide and ethylene sulfide. Test results show that the current scrubber solution and the trial solution are effective in reducing the odor generated by hydrogen sulfide, but not odors generated by ethylene sulfide. They found that ethylene sulfide compound produces the strongest odor. Another scrubber solution has been prepared to test its effectiveness with the odor from ethylene sulfide.
- The plant will cautiously approach these trials to avoid any potential wastewater issues that may be caused by the new scrubber solution.
- The plant may also try reducing the scrubber and wastewater operating temperatures to determine the effect on odors.

Early Truck Arrivals

- Four trucks arrived early since the last CAC meeting. In 2006, R&H had a total of 86 early trucks, which averaged 7 per month and for 11 months in 2007 there have been 43 for an average of 4 each month. R&H continues to identify trucking companies that do not get the “Good Neighbor Policy” transferred through their computer systems to the paperwork received by the truckers.

Community Partnership Initiative Presentations

Krazy Daze in the Park - Carol Bullock-Carpenter gave a progress report on the Reading Church Council's "Krazy Daze in the Park" program. The number of children served doubled in its second year (over 4,000 children). Awareness of the need for the program has increased. The largest challenge was children's participation in the program. Even though changes were made to the program to increase participation, there was a feeling that the population was still underserved. The program was supported by volunteer efforts. Over 50 volunteers gave 1,053 hours. Over \$4,000 was left from the CPI grant and will be used for the program next summer. The program will be run solely on a volunteer basis and will depend on financial and food donations from local businesses and restaurants.

Big Sis/Little Sis Mentoring Program - Melanie Brinkman, Mount Notre Dame Program Director, gave a powerpoint presentation on Mount Notre Dame's Big Sis/Little Sis Mentoring program. She reported on the program's expansion and highlighted the "Big Sis Saturdays," Fitness Friendzie" and "Reach for the Stars" components. She gave examples of positive impacts and talked about plans for sustaining the program.

Mark presented John Theuring of Reading City Schools and Jennifer Adut, of Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Cincinnati with a check in the amount of \$30,000. The money will support the "Bigs in School" program for 2008.

Announcements

Carol announced the lighting of the Christmas tree and other upcoming holiday festivities scheduled for the City of Reading.

Closing Note

Kim thanked members for their attendance and participation. She wished everyone a safe and warm holiday and reminded them of the next scheduled CAC meeting on February 28, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.