

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
June 5, 2013

For the Meeting of June 11, 2013

TO: Town Council

FROM: Debra Stutsman, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Green Waste Carts

RECOMMENDATION

That Council review the request of Marin Sanitary to change the way green waste is set out at the curb, asking that customers solely utilize the 64-gallon green carts (for an additional monthly fee) rather than personal cans, due to weight and worker injuries; provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of May 14, Marin Sanitary requested that Council consider a number of requests, including a small rate increase, inclusion of street sweeping into the contract and changes to the way green waste is collected. The rate increase of .22% was approved and Council decided to remain with the current street sweeping provider. The third request, to require Marin Sanitary customers to utilize the rolling 64-gallon green carts for extra green waste, rather than personal cans, was approved on a 3-2 vote. At the meeting of May 28, Mayor Coleman asked that the issue be revisited.

DISCUSSION

Currently our contract with Marin Sanitary allows customers to place the equivalent of seven 32-gallon cans (224 gallons) of yard/food waste at the curb each week. For most customers, this is one 64-gallon green can plus several random 32-gallon cans that the customer may have on hand. The use of these random cans, which are often fully loaded and very heavy, has created a workers compensation problem for the company, due to the many injuries that have occurred with their workers.

Marin Sanitary proposes to continue with the 224 gallons of green waste, but wants to amend the contract to provide that customers who want to utilize the full amount of green waste request additional green carts for a rental fee, currently set at \$1.78/month. Customers could request an additional three green carts, to get up to and actually exceed, the current 224 gallons. Subsequent to the May 14 meeting, Marin Sanitary agreed that customers could rent green carts on a month to month basis; they would not necessarily have to be rented for an entire year. In addition, they indicated that utilizing large paper recycling bags to hold leaves would also be acceptable.

Marin Sanitary proposed the following language be added to Exhibit A of the contract, under Yard Waste:

“Company shall provide residential customers with one 64-gallon capacity “green” Yardwaste/Organic cart to be placed at the designated collection location the night before service for weekly collection.

Customers may also set out up to 192 additional gallons of yardwaste weekly using company provided 64-gallon capacity carts at the designated collection location for a total of 256 gallons. The additional "green" carts may be requested for a rental fee as listed in Schedule C, Rates.

In approving the request, Council recommended a three-month implementation in order to ensure that customers could be fully informed of the change. The Town newsletter of Friday, May 17, 2013, carried an article outlining the proposed changes. Since then, Councilmembers and staff have received numerous calls and emails regarding this change. Comments include concern about the refuse contract in general, recent large rate increases, size and weight of the green carts, room for green cart storage vs. nesting of personal cans and the extra costs incurred renting additional green carts. Copies of emails are attached (personal information has been deleted for privacy reasons).

CONCLUSION

Marin Sanitary Service representatives will be present at the meeting to provide more data on the problems experienced by the company with the current can system and to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Stutsman
Town Manager

Attachment 1: May 17 Newsletter
Attachment 2: Emails received re: Green Carts



San Anselmo News

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May 17, 2013

Town Council Meeting Notes

At the meeting of Tuesday, May 14, the Town Council took the following actions:

- Administered the oath of office to newly-appointed Councilmember Liz Dahlgren. Congratulations Liz!
- Presented the Quality of Life Silver Award to Shirley Paradiso for volunteering as a receptionist at Town Hall for 25 years. Thank you, Shirley, for your dedication and effort.
- Approved the downtown event application for the Ice Cream Social volunteer recognition event to be held at Robson Harrington House and Park on Sunday, June 30, 2013, from 1 to 3 p.m.
- Announced the expiration of terms on Planning Commission, Open Space Committee, Arts Commission and Board of Review and directed staff to advertise and solicit applications.
- Approved the resolution reaffirming and memorializing the guidelines for the Open Space Committee.
- Approved the resolution authorizing the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (BAIRWMP) grant program.
- Received the report from the Financial Advisory Committee. The Committee reviewed the Town's revenues and expenditures and reported that the Town has done a good job reducing expenditures through public safety consolidations and pension reform. The Committee recommended to the Council that they consider a sales tax ballot measure to address outstanding infrastructure needs in Town streets and storm drains.
- Approved the Marin Sanitary Service rate increase request of .22%, to be effective June 1, 2013, and approved the requested change in policy for green carts. More on this below.
- Received report on the Plan Bay Area and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Plan Bay Area and concurred with the comment letters prepared by the Transportation Authority of Marin.
- Approved the response to Grand Jury report "Marin on Fire – Redux" dated March 25, 2013.
- Acknowledged plans for the Bolinas Avenue Safety Improvements funded through the Town of Ross Safe Paths to Schools grant, managed by Town staff.
- Appointed members to represent the Council on various committees, filling current vacancies, as follows:
 1. Chamber of Commerce liaison – Liz Dahlgren
 2. Marin Energy Authority, Alternate – Tom McInerney
 3. Marin Telecommunications JPA, Member – Kay Coleman
 4. Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA), Kay Coleman, 1st Alternate Debra Stutsman, 2nd Alternate Liz Dahlgren
 5. MCCMC Legislative Committee, Alternate – Tom McInerney

6. Ross Valley School District liaison, Member - Liz Dahlgren
7. Safe Routes to School, Representative – Jeff Kroot, Alternate – Liz Dahlgren
8. Transportation Authority of Marin, Alternate – Tom McInerney

The staff reports for the above items can be found at <http://www.townofsananselmo.org/index.aspx?NID=449>.

Carts for Green Waste and Composting

The Town's contract with Marin Sanitary allows customers to place the equivalent of seven 32-gallon cans (224 gallons) of yard/food waste at the curb each week. For most customers, this is one 64-gallon rolling green cart provided by Marin Sanitary, plus up to five 32-gallon cans that we, as customers, may have on hand at home.

These extra cans are not on wheels and cannot be emptied via the semi-automatic removal system on the trucks. The use of these extra cans, which are often fully loaded and very heavy, has created a workers compensation problem for the company, due to the many injuries that have occurred with their workers lifting the heavy cans.

Marin Sanitary has proposed to continue with the 224 gallons of green waste, but asked to amend the Town's contract to provide that customers who want to utilize the full amount of green waste request additional green carts for a rental fee, currently set at \$1.78/month. Customers could request an additional three green carts, to get up to and actually exceed, the current 224 gallons.

The Council approved Marin Sanitary's request at the meeting of Tuesday, May 14. The Council was concerned that this may be a big change for some customers and thus negotiated with Marin Sanitary to delay the effective date of the green cart conversion for three months, or September 1. This will give the Town and Marin Sanitary an opportunity to ensure that all customers are aware of the change and able to make arrangements for additional green carts, if desired.

If you have any questions about this change, please call Debra Stutsman at 258-4652.

Memorial Day Community BBQ

The American Legion Post 179 and Women's Auxiliary will be hosting a free Memorial Day Community Barbecue at the Log Cabin on Monday, May 27, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. It is open to the public and a great way to connect and support veterans from all generations. The American Legion is also conducting a fundraising campaign to get some of the structural issues fixed that exist with the 78 year old cabin.

For more information, please call the Log Cabin at 456-0834.

San Anselmo News, published weekly on Fridays, is available at the San Anselmo Town Hall, Library, on the Public Notice Bulletin Board. It is also available on the Town's website, www.townofsananselmo.org, and by email subscription.

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 9:04 AM
To: Debbie Stutsman
Subject: Green can rental

Dear Debra Stutsman;

In regard to the proposed change to the Green can pickup, I am confused and disturbed by this development and the Town of San Anselmo's willingness to entertain this decrease in service.

Currently, we have the option to put out 5 extra 32 gal containers of green waste as we choose, when we choose. These extra cans are easily stackable and stored in a reasonably small space. I am disturbed that the town is entertaining the idea of curtailing the option for our green waste at the curb. I for one, do not overload my can as I am aware that some one has to lift it as I do to get it to the curb. As a first step, the town could suggest that the green waste pick up crew leave the too heavy cans at the curb with a note so the household will get the message and reduce the weight of the can. This would be a first step approach.

The green waste can are extremely bulky and to have three of these on my property is a nuisance and a waste of my space. In addition it is an added inconvenience to have to request extra green cans. each time we want them available to clean up our yards. Currently, I can clean my yard whenever I want to.

This proposal is counterproductive to the environment by de-motivating the collection of green waste, as it will create another obstacle for the community to easily set out extra cans without the requirement to rent additional green cans. Currently our extra can are free. Please don't underestimate the negative message you are sending to the community in regard to this environmental impact and an extra tax or fee that can easily be increased once it is established.

I am disturbed by this development to mechanize another aspect of our community at the hands of the legal and insurance driven element of our community. The message is, lets put everything on wheels and use more fossil fuel to lift and carry what man has done throughout time. At this pace all we will have to do is sit at the wheel of our vehicles and press on the keyboards of our computers. How dreadful. Personally I am not going to stand for this and will continue to use my body and hands regardless of there pressure from the insurers and lawyers.

Thank you for requesting our input. I will see you at the meeting on June 11 to express my concerns to the community and it's leaders.

Sincerely yours,

Hi Debbie,

I'm the one who complained about the extra cost to rent the green cans.

I was on my way home and a garbage truck was blocking my driveway so I waited for him to move, no big deal. The truck was picking up yard trash. The driver does not have to lift the round trash containers at all. There is a mechanical arm that lifts the non-green containers just as the green cans. There is no manual lifting of the non-garbage co. containers into the garbage truck at all!!

You don't need to respond to me since nothing will happen to eliminate this unneeded extra cost.

Just wanted to let you know that the Garbage company fed you a good line of BS.

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 11:45 AM
To: Debbie Stutsman; Dave Donery
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Report a Concern

If you are having problems viewing this HTML email, click to view a [Text version](#).

Report a Concern

Please use the form below to describe the nature and location of your concern. Please provide as much information as possible. When you've completed the form, click submit to report your concern to us.

Describe Your Concern: Carts for Green Waste and Composting increase in charge: I do not agree that every household has extra 32 gallon cans that are not on wheels and can not be emptied by the semi-automatic removal system on the trucks. I have two 32 gallon cans that are not only on wheels but also have a 'hook' similar to the green can. I live in downtown San Anselmo and do not have enough storage space to store more of the large 64 gallon green waste cans. Additionally, I am a 74 year old, 5'1" woman and moving the large green waste can around is quite a task. Please re-consider the increase in rental fee based on a 'one size fits all' formula for residents of San Anselmo.

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 8:44 AM
To: Debbie Stutsman
Subject: Re: San Anselmo Town Newsletter

Hi Debbie,

I saw the note on green waste, and saw the mailing Marin Sanitary sent out a few months back. It would seem they proposed these terms to their customers directly. They were not satisfactory to customers, so they bypassed negotiating, and went straight to the Town?

I am a bit disappointed that these terms were agreed to. While I dont want people getting hurt, it seems Marin Sanitary should be absorbing this cost and honor their original contract.

The increase in cost is substantial to customers. This is a yearly cost, not one time fee b/c its a rental. So every year we are looking at at LEAST 24\$ for one can, and 48\$ for two can.

This is substantial, and it would have been nice to see the town push back harder before agreeing to this. Specifically, the terms of the rental of additional cans.

Thanks for receiving this feedback.

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 9:04 AM
To: Debbie Stutsman
Subject: Re: San Anselmo Town Newsletter

Good Morning,

Thanks for your newsletter.

I would like to comment on the proposed change for green carts.

If additional carts were provided free for those who need them, it would seem to me that the pick up would be faster and with less worker health issues and in fact cost less to do the job currently being done. The savings would pay for any additional carts and the contractor is doing the same work as they are currently. Thus a price increase would seem unnecessary.

My one cart will be sufficient for my purposes. So I would not have a price increase.

Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 2:16 PM
To: Debbie Stutsman
Cc: Kelley Warner
Subject: green carts for waste

Hi Debbie,

I saw the note about green carts. Our own experience is the one cart is sufficient for most weeks and then about once per quarter we have a BIG pick up (3 extra cans) when we have the gardeners come in and help us. Instead of renting an extra can that would sit around empty 11 of 12 weeks, could we get an extra can the week before that, and then have MS take it with them when they empty it (or some other variation on that idea)? I just don't want the can sitting around not being used.

Just a thought

Thanks

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 1:14 PM
To: Debbie Stutsman
Subject: MSS Contract

You have requested comments:

1. A 10 year contract is a very long time. The contract includes automatic cost increases. Marin Sanitary cannot lose money.
2. A weekly green bin is provided after the Town realized it was a mistake to only have bi-weekly pick-ups.
3. I called the MSS and was told the only price adjustment was on a gray bin- and no price relief could be made by any other bin.
4. We exceed the bin can limit. But we rarely exceed the two bin limit. I understand the MSS currently allows five cans-not bins on a pick-up.
5. I would tell MSS to hold pricing "as is". We are in a fixed income and are forced to pay a high price for garbage.
6. A 10 year contract is a very long time. Would an attorney suggest his/her client sign a 10-year obligation?