

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, October 23, 2000
As corrected, November 20, 2000

Chair Kristine Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m

1. Roll Call

Present: Rod Becker, Kristine Johnson, Dick Lerner; Judith Maguire, Carrie Sprague;
Absent: Rachel Balsley, Sylvia Schild.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of the September 25, 2000 Minutes.

It was M/S/C: Lerner/Sprague to approve with change of "cost" to "costs" in second line of Item #6.

4. Neighborhood Cleanup:

There was general agreement that the purpose of the "cleanup" needed to be clearly defined in order to design a successful program. Discussion centered on what the purpose of the "Neighborhood Cleanup" should be. Possible purposes were: 1) improving the physical appearance of a neighborhood by providing the opportunity for neighbors to cooperate in removing long-standing accumulations of debris from between garages, back yards of houses, abandoned lots, unused rights of way, etc.; or 2) an opportunity to discard items too large to fit in a refuse cart; or, 3) an opportunity to dispose of large amounts of refuse accumulated or produced for the event. The Commission asked staff to provide a history of the tons of refuse collected during these events for the past few years and an estimate of the amount of material recycled. Discussion is to continue at the next meeting of the Commission.

5. Alternatives for Downsizing Refuse Containers

The Commission had asked at an earlier meeting if 20 gallon refuse carts were available. Staff reported that they are. The Commission expressed an interest in examining the possibility of eliminating 13-gallon containers from the inventory in favor of 20-gallon containers. The Commission considered that the step between a 32-gallon container and a 13-gallon container may be too large and that the purpose of achieving less waste by offering a smaller container at a lesser price might best be achieved by having the choice between a 32 and a 20 gallon container. The Commission requested that staff take up this question with the collection crews, as well as other means, to determine if there would be a market demand for 20-gallon containers. The Commission also requested that staff poll nearby municipalities to determine what the market acceptance has been in their experience. Commissioners agreed that no change should be made without understanding what the likely market for a change would be.

6. Plant debris: transfer station expansion grant status

Staff reported that the ACWMA's grant offer, with the Commission's endorsement, was due for the Consent Calendar on November 14, 2000. It was M/S/C Lerner/Sprague that a letter in support of approving the grant prepared for the Commission by Commissioner Sprague be approved and sent to Council. The motion was amended to have "dirt" read as "soil amendment". Ayes: Lerner; Sprague; Maguire; Becker. Noes: None. Absent: Balsley, Schild.

7. APWA Accreditation

Staff informed the Commission that all the practices for the Solid Waste Management Division were approved by the accreditation inspection team sent by the American Public Works Association. It now appears the Public Works Department will receive full accreditation. If so, the SWMD will be the first in the nation to be included in an accreditation.

8. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Options.

A handout was provided that explained the options.

9. Staff Updates.

Anti-poaching (theft of recyclable materials from City of Berkeley sponsored programs) efforts were reviewed. Staff reported that 2 - 3 people had been arrested and their vehicles confiscated for stealing material. The Commission asked if it would be possible for the Police to supply the names of those arrested to CCC in order that CCC could refuse service to those individuals. The Commission also asked if it would be possible for the police to patrol just ahead of EC's collection trucks to apprehend thieves. The Commission was in agreement that the thieves were operating just ahead of the EC trucks and spotting them would be no challenge. Staff reported that EC estimates that their current tonnage is about equal to 1996 levels despite the obvious increases in participation and successes of the curbside collection program over the past 5 years. The drop in tonnage is attributed to theft as even mixed paper has a very positive commercial value. Staff is to report the results of an impending meeting among the various stakeholders in this issue. Of particular interest is the current estimate of the value of the stolen material. The Commission also noted that the public might be more willing to report theft if they understood the financial impact on the program and that a great deal of the theft was due to organized teams and not to an independent few of meager means.

10. Next Agenda:

Purpose of the Neighborhood Cleanup, Market Demand for 20 gallon Carts, Theft of Recyclables, Budget Update. Kristine Johnson will schedule the meeting on 11/20 or 11/27.

11. Adjournment

It was MSC Lerner/Becker to adjourn at 9:16. Motion unanimous.