



MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, January 26, 2004
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Public Works Department
Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Carrie Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague
Commissioners Arriving After Roll Call: Susan Blachman (7:07 p.m.), Howard Chong (7:26 p.m.)
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff: Becky Dowdakin, Tom Farrell
Members of the Public: David Williamson

2. Comments from the Public: None

3. Announcements: None

4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 7, 2004 Meeting: M/S Miyazaki/Blachman to approve minutes of November 24, 2003 as written; approved 4/0/0 (Chong absent).

5. Approval of Agenda

Miyazaki suggested that item 7c on the Annual Cleanup be addressed by the Commission before the other items. Approved by unanimous consent.

7. Old Business:

c. Staff Proposal for 2004 Annual Cleanup

Tom Farrell, Manager of Recycling and Solid Waste, gave a brief overview of the history of the Annual Cleanup, and described many of the problems with it. He then provided the Commission with a proposal to offer essentially the same service, but by appointment only. The goals include cutting down on promiscuous dumping, better managing household hazardous waste and other regulated materials, reducing the problems caused by illicit salvaging, actively engaging the residents in the program parameters at the time the appointment is made, and better managing safety and workload for City staff. The Commission discussed the reuse component of past cleanup events and expressed interest in maintaining reuse efforts. M/S Miyazaki/Schultze-Allen to support staff proposal to change the annual cleanup to an appointment-based system, and to research options for City-wide swap meets. Approved 4/0/1, with Chong abstaining.

6. New Business:

a. Implementation of Work Plan Items

Dowdakin presented a summary of ongoing waste diversion activities in the Berkeley Unified School District, including technical assistance being provided this school year by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. The commission discussed some of the institutional barriers to recycling at the administrative level and on the front line.

b. Staff Report on SB20 (Sher)

Dowdakin provided a brief summary of SB20, which will require that a recycling fee be paid to the State for each sale of a television or computer. This law was signed by Gray Davis, but subsequently put on hold by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

c. Staff Report on Budget Strategy for Capital Improvements

Dowdakin explained that while Public Works created a 5-year capital budget for the Refuse Fund, this was only a planning tool and not a public budget document. The capital budget for the current biennial budget period (FY04/05) includes \$350,000 in each fiscal year for use by the Solid Waste Management Division. Chong emphasized the need for a capital fund for refuse and recycling, separate from the general Public Works Department pool.

d. Reduction of City Commissions and Boards

Dowdakin noted that a recent story in the Berkeley Daily Planet (Vol. 5, Iss. 84) revealed that the City Manager has drafted a plan for reducing the number of City commissions. The specifics of the plan have not been made public. Dowdakin stated that she believed that it was important to keep the Solid Waste Management Commission active at least during the period that the new Solid Waste Management Plan is being developed. Sprague stated that she had drafted a letter to the City Manager explaining why the Solid Waste Management Commission should not be cut. Miyazaki recommended that the commission prepare a Council report on the budget, and include retention of the Commission as one of the recommendations.

7. Old Business:

a. Discussion of Use of Refuse Fund (820)

Miyazaki distributed a memorandum proposing that the Commission develop a Refuse Fund Study Work Program and establish an ad hoc subcommittee for this purpose. He described that the commission should discuss allowable uses of the fund, and be involved with rate-setting and a discussion of rate equity in light of the non-refuse uses of the fund. Miyazaki asked that the Public Works budget analyst be involved. M/S Miyazaki/Chong to form an ad hoc subcommittee to study the Refuse Fund. Approved 5/0/0. Miyazaki and Sprague were appointed to the subcommittee.

b. Discussion of Litter Issues Related to Recycling Services

Sprague informed the commission that she was expecting a report from the Public Works Commission sub committee on this issue, but did not receive one. This item was continued until the next meeting by unanimous consent.

8. Staff Updates: Dowdakin reported the **plant debris construction project** resumed in mid-December 2003 following delay due to problems with filtration of contaminated ground water. Staff will soon submit the **2002 CIWMB annual disposal and diversion report**, and it appears that Berkeley's diversion rate will be 47%. Dowdakin said that other jurisdictions are experiencing similar setbacks in their diversion figures compared to the previous reporting year. Dowdakin provided the Commission with copies of **new public information materials**, including commercial recycling and food waste posters, and a restaurant brochure. Staff recommendation for **consultant selection for SWMP** will be before Council on January 27, 2004. Staff is recommending the contract be awarded to Environmental Science Associates who proposed in cooperation with Applied Compost Consulting. Both firms have worked on past projects for the Solid Waste Management Division. Dowdakin reminded the commission that they are scheduled for **election of officers in February**, and also that all commissioners (except the most recent appointees) must complete **Form 700** and return it to the City Clerk.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting is February 23, 2004. The agenda will include continued discussion of work program, litter, and budget. New items include quarterly reports, election of officers, and discussion of commission vacancies.

10. Adjourn: M/S Miyazaki/Blachman to adjourn, 5/0/0, at 9:07 p.m.