



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

Public Works Department
Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Howard Chong called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Howard Chong, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague

Commissioner Absent: Genevieve Dreyfus

Commissioners Arriving After Roll Call: Susan Blachman (7:15 p.m.)

Staff: Becky Dowdakin

Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber, Sara MacKusick, Arman Rezaee,
Dave Williamson

2. Comments from the Public: Arman Rezaee introduced himself as a UC Berkeley student who works in ASUC external affairs, and having a particular interest in sustainability.

3. Announcements: Miyazaki noted that earlier in the month, the Commission's Solid Waste Management Plan Subcommittee met with the consultants and staff for a kickoff meeting, and that the Commission's Budget subcommittee had its second meeting with staff. Dowdakin announced that UC Berkeley had released a Draft Environmental Impact Report on its Long Range Development Plan, and she encouraged commissioners to review it. Dowdakin announced that Councilmember Olds had appointed Genevieve Dreyfus to the Commission.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the March 22, 2004 Meeting: Schultze-Allen noted that the minutes do not correctly identify the Commission Chair, Howard Chong. M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to approve the minutes of March 22, 2004 as amended; approved 4/0/1, with Schultze-Allen abstaining.

5. Approval of Agenda: Chong suggested that item 6b and 6c be taken before item 6a, which will likely take more than 15 minutes. M/S Schultze-Allen/Sprague, to take agenda in order suggested; approved 5/0/0.

6. New Business:

b. Discussion of and Response to City Manager's Report on Commissions

Dowdakin provided a brief summary on the City Manager's report Council on cost reductions related to commissions and boards. M/S Schultze-Allen/Sprague that the Solid Waste Management Commission (SWMC) recommends to the City Council that the SWMC be kept in its current status of monthly meetings until at least after the Solid Waste Management Plan has been adopted.

Blachman suggested a friendly amendment to meet quarterly, which Sprague did not accept. Blachman asked about the budget impact, and Dowdakin explained that support of SWMC activities had no General Fund impact since SWMD staff was paid from the Refuse Fund. In

addition, since management employees staff most meetings, no overtime is incurred; therefore the budget impact on the Refuse Fund is negligible. Chong suggested pointing out the inaccuracies in the City Managers report regarding vacancies and meeting frequency. He offered a friendly amendment noting that the SWMC had four vacancies at the time of the City Manager's report, and three at present; meetings are monthly, with usually 10 meetings per year. Sprague accepted the amendment.

Blachman asked about the source of information for the City Manager's report, and Dowdakin explained that the City Manager's office had polled commission secretaries several times regarding meeting frequency and attendance.

Motion approved 5/0/0.

c. Discussion and Decision on Topics and Dates for Public Workshops for Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Input

Dowdakin informed the Commission that the contract with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) for development of the new SWMP includes four public workshops. The four topics suggested by ESA are: residential and commercial organics collection, multi-family recycling; self-haul and debris box load recovery; and the master plan for the Second and Gilman site. Dowdakin asked the Commission what topics they would like the workshops to cover. Miyazaki said that ESA should develop a list of programs and ideas for achieving 75% diversion, and that the list should guide the selection of topics for public workshops. Blachman suggested that we target workshops by generator type. Sprague suggested enlisting known groups such as Downtown Berkeley Business Association. Chong suggested that multi-family recycling and organics were most important for the residential sector. Schultze-Allen stated that source reduction was important, and suggested using the 4Rs as the four work shops. Chong emphasized that although a workshop theme was important, anything should be allowed for discussion. He further stated that a variety of meeting days and times were important. M/S Chong/Schultze-Allen that the workshops focus on: residential and commercial organics, multi-family recycling, and recycling and waste reduction for the student population. Miyazaki offered a friendly amendment that the meetings be held when and where related meetings are already scheduled. Approved 5/0/0. Blachman further suggested that staff employ a variety of outreach and advertising methods to elicit participation.

a. Implementation of Work Plan Items

- **Review of Work Plan Calendar.** The Commission reviewed the Work Plan Calendar, with Chong noting that the Commission had reviewed or completed the first six tasks on the list. Chong suggested that these items no longer appear on the agenda unless requested by one of the Commission members. The Commission discussed the issue at length, extending discussion by 15 minutes (M/S Blachman/Schultze-Allen, approved 5/0/0). The commission agreed to remove items Ic, Ib, and IIf from the Work Plan Calendar.

- **Staff Technical Reports to Commission.** III(a) Quarterly Budget Review. Miyazaki and Sprague have met with staff twice regarding the budget, but have nothing to report at this time.
- **Municipal Code Review.** I(i) Review Berkeley Municipal Codes, and state and regional regulations related to solid waste planning and management. Dowdakin provided a brief overview of the municipal codes related to solid waste management, and asked the Commission to consider them in the context of developing the new Solid Waste Management Plan. Dowdakin suggested that the Commission start by examining the definitions sections, to ensure that the codes use terms consistently, and that definitions themselves do not create artificial barriers to program goals. The Commission discussed issues including controlling authority of other agencies, fines, and consistent applicability of codes to both recycling and refuse services. M/S Miyazaki/Sprague that the Commission tackle code review over a four month period, with staff providing draft definitions in May, and the Commission discussing Sections 12.32 and 12.34 in June, Sections 12.36 and 12.38 in July, and food packaging in August. Approved 5/0/0.

d. Staff Presentation and Discussion of Proposed FY2005 Solid Waste Rates

Dowdakin provided an overview of changes to the rate resolution proposed for the coming fiscal year. In general, the proposal includes a rate increase of five percent, with other adjustments based on fully recovering costs for special handling of materials, and rounding of Transfer Station rates to reduce change-making activities. Dowdakin noted that by the time staff receives instructions from the budget office on rate adjustments, there is little opportunity for Commission input on the proposal. Miyazaki stated that the Commission should be able to address rate setting in advance of the FY06/07 biennial budget. He suggested that the Budget Subcommittee would bring a proposal for a Commission recommendation to Council regarding rate setting. Blachman suggested that the rates should include incentives for source reduction and recycling.

7. Old Business:

a. Discussion of Options for City-Wide Reuse Events

Staff had no new information on this item. Chong said that he was discussing the idea of a swap meet with one of the School Board members.

Sprague suggested that the Commission revisit agenda item 6b. M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to revisit item 6b, approved 4/0/0 (Schultze-Allen left meeting prior to vote, at 8:45 p.m.). M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to amend motion regarding the City Manager's recommendation on Commissions to direct staff to send the Commission's work plan with the recommendation. Chong agreed to the friendly amendment. Approved 4/0/0.

8. Staff Updates: Dowdakin reported that the walls of the transfer pit for the **plant debris construction project**, were curing after being installed through a process called "shotcreting." The brochure for the **bulky cleanup** is being printed this week and should be delivered to the post office by the end of the week. Recycling at Berkeley **High School** is well underway with the Vice Principal leading his custodial staff to revive the classroom paper collection, and initiation of discussion for recycling and foodwaste collection in the new cafeteria. Dowdakin

met with a subcommittee of the Public Works Commission on **litter**, and it appears that they will focus their attention on illegal dumping through work with the Streets Division and assistance from the Neighborhood Services liaisons.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting is May 24, 2004. The agenda will include continuation of discussion on work plan (code review and budget implementation), and staff presentation of FY2005 budget.

10. Adjourn: M/S Miyazaki/Blachman to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Approved 4/0/0.