



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, April 25, 2005
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Chairman Peter Schultze-Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Susan Blachman (8:00), Fred Dodsworth, Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague, Sankor Sridaran.

Commissioners absent: David Tam

Staff: Tom Farrell, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC), Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore, Dave Williams of the Ecology Center, Mark Gorrell.

2. Comments from the Public: Mary Lou Van Deventer described the City's rezoning of industrial areas, including Urban Ore's property, as commercial, and requested Commission support. Although it may result in more tax revenue, Urban Ore cannot pay commercial rents and would have to leave Berkeley when their lease expires in 2009. She pointed out that small local manufacturers who use recycled materials are an important element of reaching zero waste, and that they need industrial land. She also urged the Solid Waste Commission to resist merger with the Public Works Commission, because she believes merger would undermine the goal of reaching zero waste.
3. Announcements: Peter Schultze-Allen welcomed new commissioner Fred Dodsworth, appointed by Betty Olds. Mr. Dodsworth stated his long support for Zero Waste, using carrot and stick methods. Schultze-Allen announced the Green Home Tour taking place May 1, 2005. Levy pointed out an interview with Mayor Bates about Berkeley's zero waste goal in the April 2005 issue of American City and County magazine.
4. Approval of the minutes of the April 4, 2005 meeting: It was M/S Dodsworth/Sridaran to approve the minutes as written. Approved, 5/0/1, Sprague abstaining due to her absence at the April 4 meeting.
5. Approval of Agenda: It was M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to approve the agenda. Approved 6/0/0. Levy noted that the agenda was changed after the packet mailing to add item 7e, contract extensions, at the request of the budget subcommittee. The amended agenda was publicly posted as required and re-sent to Commissioners.
6. New Business:
- Presentation and discussion with Rene Cardinaux, Director of Public Works – this item was postponed due to Mr. Cardinaux's absence.
 - City Manager's recommendation to combine the Solid Waste and Public Works Commissions (PWC): Schultze-Allen and Sprague recalled that the commission opposed a similar proposal in 2004. Sprague noted that the Commission staff is

paid from an enterprise fund (not from the General Fund). Commissioners asked if the concerns of the two commissions overlap. Farrell stated that there was a small overlap in Streets. Levy distributed the BMC description of each commission's topics, and the April 7 PWC agenda. Sprague asked if the merged commissions would maintain all its members, and noted the difficulty of having effective meetings with 18 members. Jensen commented that one Commission could not have time to deal with both public works and solid waste issues; the SWMC will soon consider a new rate structure in addition to its already full agenda, and the PWC may add parking and other transportation topics due to the merger of transportation and Public Works. Schultze-Allen noted that the SWMC appropriately deals with activities funded by the Refuse Fund. Jensen noted that it makes sense for a \$24 million fund to have its own commission. Commissioners discussed changing the name to reflect zero waste goals, and decided to consider this topic separately.

M/S Miyazaki/Dodsworth as follows: "The Solid Waste Management Commission reaffirms its motion of April 26, 2004, opposing merger with the Public Works Commission, at least until the Solid Waste Management Plan is complete. The Commission is in the middle of Council-mandated work revising the City's solid waste plan, is enterprise funded, has a nearly complete roster, and has an additional new mandate to implement the City's Zero Waste policy by 2020. Therefore, the SWMC opposes merging the two commissions at this time. The motion carried 6/0/0. Staff will attempt to have this information item on the May 17 agenda when commissions will be reconsidered.

Miyazaki objected to the proposed ban of staff support to commission subcommittees, stating that staff support to the budget subcommittee is useful.

- c. Changing the meeting location to one accessible to public transportation: the Chairman suggested holding this item until the arrival of Commissioner Tam. Since Mr. Tam was absent, the item was tabled.
- d. Memo from Public Works Commission concerning litter, storm drains and consolidation of Streets and Solid Waste Functions: Dodsworth and Schultze-Allen believe the Ecology Center is not to blame for litter in storm water drains. Commissioners recalled that they had responded to this litter complaint before. They agreed with the PW commission's concern about multiple flyers left at apartment buildings and creating litter. Staff confirmed that street sweeping is now fully funded by the refuse fund so the savings in storm water funding suggested by the PW commission is incorrect. The Commission decided to take no action.

7. Old Business

- a. Response to Council request concerning reuse of polystyrene: The Commission reviewed the draft report by Commissioner Jensen. Local packing stores welcome used soft packaging (film and pellets), but pre-formed packaging has no

reuse. Commissioners discussed Zero-waste as a philosophy and as a practical goal. Commissioners discussed the costs and benefits of city –sponsored collection or CCC receiving this material, market requirements, publicizing opportunities for reuse, and working with other cities to increase use of substitute materials. They acknowledged that it may not be feasible to divert block packaging.

Commissioner Blachman arrived at 8 p.m.

b. Zero Waste Plan and Name Change It was M/S Steen/Dodsworth to rename the Commission the Zero Waste Commission, and accompany this with a definition of Zero Waste and proposed revision of the Commission’s responsibilities. Confirmed 6/0/1, Sridaran abstaining due to uncertainty as to whether the Commission would be merged with the Public Works Commission.

c. Solid Waste Management Plan Staff will distribute the next update before the May 23 meeting. Increased capacity and construction recycling is necessary to reach 75% diversion. Farrell toured the City of South San Francisco’s transfer station and observed efficient and compact construction waste processing equipment, without the expected dust and noise, that could be feasible at the Berkeley transfer station. Commissioners also discussed funding options for a rebuilding the site.

d. 2006-07 Biennial Budget Review: The budget subcommittee met with Rene Cardinaux. They are concerned with increases for non solid waste activities, and restrictions on raising the rates more than five percent, thereby limiting staff and activities. They will provide a memo for the next commission meeting.

e. Contract extensions for CCC, Ecology Center and Urban Ore: The Budget Committee distributed a draft information item to Council. The City Manager’s recommendation for one-year extensions of these contracts on the April 26, 2005 Council agenda. Miyazaki met with the contractors and recommends a two, and preferably 3-year contract to coincide with the solid waste plan (Plan) revision schedule. The Plan will not be approved by Council until May 2006, and it does not make sense to seek a new contractor before these operating decisions are made. It will also take a year to transition, in addition to bidding and construction. Dave Williamson responded to questions; stated that six of the twelve trucks are past their service life and four must be replaced. Ecology Center cannot obtain a loan for trucks with a one-year contract extension. If trucks are not replaced, the maintenance costs will be more expensive than capitalization, with nothing to show for the investment at the end. It was M/S Sridaran/Sprague to authorize Commissioner Miyazaki to revise the information item concerning contract extensions as discussed and provide it to Council, and to recommend that commissioners inform their appointing Council Members of the Commission’s action. Confirmed 7/0/0, Tam absent.

8. Staff Reports: The Human Resources Department is contacting the top candidate(s) for Recycling Program Manager. **Schools:** Schools have made substantial improvement. Staff will provide a report at the end of the school year. A Berkeley High School class has

produced a remarkable video and an education program they teach in the classrooms.

Events: Earth Day had a 70% diversion rate. Solano Stroll is considering public organics.

9. Future Agenda Items: The next meeting date is May 23, 2005. Agenda items include the Solid Waste Management Plan, the 2006-07 budget, the Zero Waste plan, accessible meeting locations, the polystyrene report to Council and results of Commission communications to Council.

10. Adjourn: It was M/S/C 7/0/0 to adjourn at 9:40 pm.