



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, August 28, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 03 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Blachman (7:15), Jensen, Kalil, Miyazaki, Schultze-Allen, Tam (7:10)

Commissioners absent: Dodsworth

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick (CCC), Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher (Ecology Center), Dan Knapp, Joe Wertil and Mary Lou Van Deventer (Urban Ore)

2. Comments from the Public: Mary Lou Van Deventer distributed copies of the 2006 ACWMA Recycling Guide and stated that Urban Ore gives out 7-10 cases of the Guides annually. She requested changes on the Solid Waste Division web site to refer to contractor Urban Ore for disposal of reusable items.

Dan Knapp announced that Urban Ore was filmed by Comcast, and was featured in San Francisco Magazine's 110 best things to do in the Bay Area. The tons quoted in the article were incorrect: Urban Ore receives 450 tons per month and sells 440 tons.

3. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Martin Bourque announced that Ecology Center will host a Sustainability Summit, October 6

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2006: M/S Schultze-Allen/Kalil to approve the minutes as corrected. Approved 5/0/0.

5. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved, 6/0/0.

6. Old Business

- a. Report from Zero Waste Subcommittee: Ms. Kalil reviewed the minutes of the July 17 meeting. The Subcommittee wants to build bridges with commissions of Departments that partake in the zero waste activities and goals, such as the ZAB and Energy commissions for designing and permitting the proposed solid waste management center rebuild. They also want to meet and coordinate with Lisa Bauer, Sustainability coordinator for the University, and hold public workshops. Holtzclaw stated that Department Director Ford will hold meetings of the secretaries of Commissions associated with the Public Works Department, to coordinate. Miyazaki sought clarification that a subcommittee may consist of four members (e.g. a quorum of the Commission). Blachman suggested involving

staff that deal with Recycling procurement; there is no longer a related commission. The next meeting of the subcommittee will be September 12 at 10 a.m.

- b. Sunol Update and Resolution: Jensen distributed a draft resolution to Council encouraging them to support regional compost facilities. Members clarified language, and discussed Tam's suggestions to make the resolution more specific. The Chair extended discussion time until 8:20 p.m. The resolution was passed in two parts:

The Zero Waste Commission regrets the collapse of efforts toward the creation of the Regional Composting Facility in the Sunol vicinity, but reaffirms its support for such facilities in Alameda County, noting that, as an alternative to landfills, there will be an increasing need for such operations, and that their creation should be encouraged. (M/S Kalil/Blachman, 6/0/0)

We ask the City Council to support and participate in a proactive countywide process, working with fellow jurisdictions and county authorities to identify appropriate in-county locations for future composting facilities. (M/S Schultze-Allen/ Jensen, 5/0/1, Tam abstained due to wanting to specify that the facilities be publicly owned with a collective capacity of 3000 tons per day of food and landscape discards.)

- c. Draft of Primer for Council: Holtzclaw reported that the Primer is being reviewed by Ms. Ford and the City Manager, with a goal of presenting it to Council in January. Commissioners want to partake in its preparation. The draft will be available at City offices for individual Commissioners to review and comment.
 - d. Commissioner names on the Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/ Kalil to instruct staff to list commissioners' names, their appointing council members and vacancies on Commission Agendas. Approved 6/0/0.
7. New Business: Outside Trader and Urban Ore (U.O.) Report:
Joe Wertil described his work picking up reusable items for Urban Ore. He receives 15 calls daily. Half of the calls are contractors doing renovations, often in Lafayette or Orinda. U.O. typically pays 10 percent of sale value or gives a 20% trade credit. The material varies – they just rented a truck and forklift to move a large load of marble. Publicity consists of cards to contractors, truck sign, and advertising for supply or for demand. Kalil inquired how to grow the business. UO anticipates having more trucks, and a service to evaluate demolition sites for reuse.
 8. Quarterly Reports: Daniel Maher presented the Ecology Center Quarterly report. The Ecology Center is no longer enrolled in the City's Toxics Management program because they no longer store materials on site that they were using to produce biodiesel. Heavy rainfall during the first quarter reduced the amount of recycling set out, especially affecting cardboard. With improvement in the weather, the second quarter was back to normal. Poaching is an ongoing problem. Jeff Belchamber presented the Community Conservation

Center's report. Levy pointed out that organics tons increased 14% over the same quarter in 2005. Most of the increase was self-haul from Berkeley and other jurisdictions. Refuse increased 11%, due to increased City commercial collection, and many heavy loads from Caltrans work in Oakland.

9. Commendation for Carrie Sprague: It was M/S/C Kalil/Miyazaki (6/0/0) to adopt the following resolution:
Whereas, Carrie Sprague was appointed to the Solid Waste Commission in 1998 and has served with distinction for 8 years; and
Whereas Ms. Sprague has been a tireless proponent of recycling, environmental stewardship and zero waste; and
Whereas Ms Sprague has provided a shining example of dedicated service to the Berkeley community.
Therefore be it resolved that we, the members of the Zero Waste Commission, are most grateful and commend Ms Sprague for her years of dedicated service and contribution; and
Be it further resolved that this Commission will continue to advance the goals and policies for Zero Waste that Ms. Sprague helped foster.
10. Staff reports: Levy reported successful presentation of the City's school program at the California Resource Recovery Association annual conference. The school recycling panel had one of the highest attendance rates, and over 60 people signed up to be in a new "technical council" to exchange information about school recycling.
11. Future Agenda Items:
Results of Multi-family and capture rate studies
Residential mixed paper campaign
Budget process
12. Adjourn: M/S Miyazaki/Jensen to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.