



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, September 24, 2007
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 15 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present, Blachman, Jensen, Miyazaki, Nava, Schultze-Allen, Tam, Sadigh.

Commissioners absent: Dodsworth, Kalil

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Mark and Nancy Gorrell, Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Sara MacKusick of CCC; Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center, Cheryl Gregory, Dr. Joel Kreisberg of Teleosis Institute.

2. Comments from the Public: MaryLou VanDeventer thanked Commissioner Jensen for his presentation of the Commission's resolution at the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission removed the Ashby area from the overlay.
3. Announcements and Commissioner comments: Chairman Jensen welcomed new Commissioner Natalie Nava, appointed by Kriss Worthington. She is a 3rd year student at UC Berkeley, studying conservation and energy. Schultze-Allen announced publication of the EcoMetro Guide, a sustainable business coupon book available at Emeryville stores and the Ecology Center. Tam announced two vacancies on the Alameda County Recycling Board.
4. Approve Minutes: Discussed status of commissioner who attends by phone and asked for clarification from Secretary. MS Schultze-Allen/Miyazaki to approve the August 27 minutes as corrected, subject to clarification of status of Tam's votes. 5/0/2, Nava and Sadigh abstaining.
5. Approve Agenda: MS Schultze-Allen/Tam to approve the agenda. 7/0/0.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Status of Zero Waste Activities: Holtzclaw stated that rebuild RFP was canceled in favor of a feasibility study. RFP responses are due October 2 for removing dry self-haul material to a construction demolition material recovery facility. Transfer station could then meet requirements for diversion ordinance, with stipulation that materials not be used for beneficial use and ADC not be considered diversion.
 - b. Residential composting rollout: Levy reported pail distribution, questions about container cleanliness, requests from multi family and business customers, and requests for 32-gallon carts.

- c. Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance: Distributed status report written by Kalil and Jensen. Jensen reported a range of opinions from small retailers, but all supported taking some action. Commissioners discussed logistics of rebates and fees, definitions of markets and of plastic bags. Consensus to phase in plastic bag ban with a 6-month lead-time for large markets, 12 months for small. Review draft ordinance with merchant leaders. City could support by helping merchants get reusable bags at low cost, providing educational materials for the public, and have clear ecological information to support the decision. MacKusick, representing Environmental Commission, offered to help draft a preliminary ordinance for Zero Waste and Environmental Commissions to review, to be available at the October ZWC meeting.
 - d. West Berkeley Zoning Overlay: Commissioners requested that Jensen, as Chair, attend West Berkeley meeting to re-emphasize that the solid waste management center should be removed from the zoning overlay. VanDeventer listed other reuse and recycling businesses in the Gilman area.
7. New Business
Teleosis Support Letter: Joel Kreisberg, Executive Director of Teleosis Institute, updated the Commission on the status of their green pharmacy/ pharmaceutical take-back program, and requested a letter of support to use in his fundraising efforts. Funding would pay for collection and disposal of medicine from dropoff sites. It was not difficult to recruit ten take-back sites in Alameda County, including five in Berkeley. Sadigh distributed a draft support letter. M/S Sadigh/ Schultze-Allen to provide support letter, 7/0/0.
8. Staff reports: Solano Stroll event occurred with very large diversion of recyclables and compostables, courtesy Green Mary and SWMD staffing. Albany and City staff worked together, and co-funded Green Mary. Wanda Redic Bland is now in Oakland, working on large-event and large venue recycling for that City. She is already missed. SWMD will interview contractors to fill the staff void temporarily. Council member Wozniak recruited an intern to help sororities and fraternities implement recycling, and possibly to work on move-out.
9. Future agenda items and meeting dates; Discuss Urban Ore's Construction material diversion report.

Adjourn: M/S Tam/Nava to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. 7/0/0