



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, October 22, 2007
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present, Dodsworth, Jensen, Kalil, Nava, Sadigh, Schultze-Allen, Tam.

Commissioners absent: Blachman, Miyazaki (excused absence)

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Lisa Camas, Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Sara MacKusick and Jeff Belchamber of CCC; Sara Phillips, Ricardo Barilas, and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center.

2. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp attended the Compost summit on October 10 sponsored by the California Waste Management Board. Of separated green waste, 46% is used as Alternative Daily Cover in landfills, 20% composted and mulch, and 21% as boiler fuel. Oakland and Emeryville do not claim ADC but most jurisdictions do. VanDeventer reported Discovery Channel filmed at Urban Ore for a Masters of Junk program.
3. Announcements and Commissioner comments: Tam reported status of appointments to the Alameda County Waste Management and Recycling Board. Levy announced the City's Green Gathering November 15 honoring Green Businesses, and invited commissioners to attend.
4. Approve Minutes: M/S Schultze-Allen/ Tam to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2007 meeting as amended; 5/0/2 Dodsworth and Kalil abstaining due to their absence at the September meeting. Staff distributed minutes for the July 23, June 18, and February 26, 2007 meetings.
5. Approve Agenda: MS Kalil/Schultze-Allen to approve the agenda. 7/0/0.
6. Old Business:
- a. Draft Plastic Bag Ordinance: Commissioners discussed elements of the draft ordinance prepared by the Plastic Bag Reduction Subcommittee. Sara MacKusick participates as liaison from the Environmental Committee. Kalil and Jensen have talked with many merchants; all would like to take some action; treat all merchants equally, and minimize their staff work at the checkout counter. Topics included whether this has a categorical exemption from CEQA, the option of banning bags that cannot carry a fee rather than a direct ban, phasing in large retailers who are already taking action due to other city/state laws, followed by smaller retailers 6 months later to give them time to prepare, and the

definition of a carryout bag. Charge a fee on allowed single use bags. Do not require retailers to sell reusable bags or to provide a rebate. Straw vote on allowing compostable bags was tied, and commissioners requested more environmental information. To assist small retailers, City should investigate buying reusable bags in bulk for resale to smaller retailers, perhaps with logo advertising the City's shopping neighborhoods as a further message to buy local. Staff will return with a draft ordinance that can then be shown to merchants and to City attorney for review and comment during December and January.

b. Status of rebuild postponement: Holtzclaw reported that the City Manager wants a feasibility study to proceed an RFP for design, or to assist with design. Cm, PW Director Ford and Holtzclaw to meet in early December to discuss further. The R3 results are important to be sure that rates will support the expense.

c. Zoning Commission Report: Jensen attended the Planning Commission meeting, where they voted not to remove the Transfer station from the Zoning Overlay so as not to limit options. Tam stated that Planning Commissioners are unfamiliar with the transfer station functions, earnings and jobs, and may think there is room for both auto dealer and transfer station on the site. Kalil is disappointed that other commissions did not respond to subcommittee's invitations to appoint liaisons. Holtzclaw is arranging tour for planning commission, and has heard no talk of privatization. Staff will invite Planning Commissioners and neighborhood organizations to tour and discuss the transfer station and the pending expansion and benefits to the community.

Kalil leaves at 9:20 p.m.

7. New Business:

a. Rezoning of transfer station property: Commissioners approved a draft communication to the City Council. M/S Tam/ Nava, 6/0/0.

8. Staff reports – tabled to next meeting.

9. Future agenda items and meeting dates: The next meeting is November 26, and there will be no December meeting. Topics to include Construction and Demolition material and transfer station rebuild status.

10. Adjourn: M/S Sadigh/Nava to adjourn at 9:58, 6/0/0.

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