



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, June 23, 2008
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chairwoman Nashua Kalil called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Blachman, Dodsworth, Jensen, Kalil, Nava, Sadigh, Tam

Commissioners absent: Schultze-Allen

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: *Organizations/Businesses:* Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Martin Bourque, Daniel Maher and Debbie Beyea of the Ecology Center; Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Centers; Susan Thygesen, City of Berkeley Director of Purchasing.

2. Approve Agenda: M/S Jensen/Dodsworth to approve agenda, 7/0/0

3. Extended Producer Responsibility: *The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a coalition of local governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations related to solid waste, recycling and various forms of resource conservation. The CPSC mission is “to shift California’s product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability. By partnering with producers, we focus on the part of the supply chain where products are designed and manufactured. We believe that by making better choices in the early stages of a product’s life, we can reduce the environmental impact of product waste.” See www.caproductstewardship.org*

Heidi Sanborn, President of California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), presented a PowerPoint detailing the progress and ideas involved in establishing an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system for products and packaging. Handouts included a sample city resolution, a staff report from the California Integrated Waste Management Board on a proposed EPR system framework, and a CPSC pledge of support for organizations to sign. Staff will add a link to the Division’s web page for the CPSC. Kalil appointed Sadigh and Jensen as a subcommittee to further study EPR and environmental purchasing policies. They will consult with the Environmental and Energy commissions. The Subcommittee will report their preliminary findings, and recommendations for a City of Berkeley policy resolution at the July or August ZWC meeting.

4. Comments from the Public: Martin Bourque introduced the Ecology Center's new Deputy Director, Deborah Beyea. The Ecology Center will have a new truck christening party soon and will send invitations. Dan Knapp showed off Urban Ore's new Reusable organic cotton shopping bag, selling for \$6.
5. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Kalil reported on a productive discussion with the Chair of the Alameda County Planning Commission, about their efforts to create a green policy framework for the County, including Zero Waste. She and Levy accompanied Council members Wozniak, Capitelli, and their staff on tour of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Richmond, as part of information gathering to evaluate a new system for Berkeley. Holtzclaw mentioned possible tours of MRF's for commissioners; Kalil asked for future dates and a list of relevant locations. Blachman reminded the Commission that the State Recycling Association Conference will take place August 3 through 6 in Burlingame, CA. Tam reported that Karen Smith, Executive director of Stopwaste, is retiring, and that Stopwaste will seek a new Executive Director. Republic Waste Services has made an offer to purchase Allied Waste. Berkeley buys services from both of these companies. Dodsworth says students at Berkeley City College are looking for support to decorate public recycling containers to attract more use.
6. Approve meeting minutes of April 28, 2008: **M/S Jensen/Blachman to approve the minutes as amended to correct minor typos and formatting errors, 7-0-0**
7. Election of new Vice Chair: This office is vacant because Mr. Tam did not complete training and paperwork for Commission officers within the allotted time. **M/S Dodsworth/Kalil to re-elect David Tam Vice Chair of the Zero Waste Commission: 6/0/1 (Tam abstaining).**
8. Ongoing Business:
 - a. Holtzclaw announced that interviews will be held for Recycling Program Manager in late July, with a Commissioner on the interview panel; Kalil or Schultze-Allen are likely. Sixty applications were received but many were generic, with no recycling experience; twenty met minimum qualifications.
 - b. Greenhouse gas reduction programs: Staff is still focused on food scraps. Second survey by Stopwaste showed residential food scraps participation level is holding steady, but didn't increase. June's free compost giveaway at the Marina was a rousing success, with people happily scooping up 120 cubic yards of city compost. Event recycling is progressing, with plans for a first-time recycling and greening program at the City's Fourth of July celebration.
9. Staff reports:
 - a. Status of contracts and RFPs:
 - Holtzclaw reported progress on the City's rate study. The City Manager is acting as the project manager met with R3 to request a "cost of service" model that City can use to project rates – which R3's current report does not do. The rate projection model is now due in October, with public hearings in

December and new refuse rates at midyear. At that point, Division can move forward with long-term contracts. In response to Kalil's request, Holtzclaw clarified that capital purchases, including trucks, are provided for in the short-term contracts. However, dual sort carts for residents will not be purchased until the rate structure is approved.

The RFP for transfer station rebuild feasibility study is progressing. Commissioners want to ensure it will attract a consultant with zero waste, reuse and recycling experience. Kalil stated she has worked with Holtzclaw to review the policy and principles the City and Commission have recommended, such as zero waste and highest-best use, and to state these policies in the RFP. Dodsworth asked how the Commission would be involved in review. Holtzclaw responded that the principles and policies section would be available to Commissioners.

- b. Draft plastic bag reduction ordinance: Staff reported that several Southern California cities are about to adopt bag ordinances similar to Berkeley's draft ordinance. Legal review on Berkeley ordinance is still pending.
 - c. UCB move-out results: No report given.
 - d. City and Division budget issues: Holtzclaw provided a printout of FY 2008 SWM Division expenses and revenues as of June 1, 2008. This does not show final invoices and revenues not yet received. The rate model, now due in October will clarify the relationship of revenues and expenses to programs and their projections to future years.
 - e. Legislation report: Tam follows legislation for the Northern California Recycling Association. He distributed a handout listing the status of waste-related bills of interest. AB2058 (Levine) placing fees on carryout bags no longer has a paper bag fee.
10. Agenda items for July, and meeting dates: The next meeting will be July 28. Agenda items will include the Extended Producer Responsibility subcommittee report, and a "nuts and bolts" report by staff on Division operations.
11. Adjourn: **M/S to adjourn, Nava/Jensen, 7/0/0 at 9:30 p.m.**