



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, January 28, 2008
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor**

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

1. Roll Call:

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

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Sara MacKusick and Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Centers; Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center.

2. Comments from the Public: Van Deventer distributed Urban Ore's safety history from FY 2005-2007 showing very few injuries. Knapp reported an analysis by economist Dr. Jeff Morris, stating that composting of organics and wood is in general a better environmental choice than incineration.

3. Announcements and Commissioner comments: Jay Miyazaki has resigned from the Commission, after many years of service. He will be missed. Kalil drew attention to the cover and feature article of San Francisco magazine entitled Eco-Anxiety. Coming events include the U.S. Composting Conference in Oakland, the Northern California Recycling Association's Introduction to recycling class, a Stopwaste workshop on reusable supply-transport packaging for businesses, and a class on bay-friendly landscaping. Tam distributed a summary of current legislation. The draft Climate Change plan is available on the City website. Kalil mentioned AB2058, (Assembly Member Lloyd Levine), which gives retailers who want to use plastic bags a choice of charging a 15-cent per-bag fee or reducing plastic bag use by 35% by 2011.

4. Approve meeting minutes for November and December – tabled with intention to approve all outstanding minutes at February meeting.

5. Approve Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Kalil to approve the agenda, postponing item 9-contractor reports. 6/0/0.
Tam arrives.

6. Old Business:

- a. Draft Plastic Bag Reduction ordinance: Commissioners reviewed the recent draft and agreed to forward it to the Environmental Commission. Commissioners asked for more information and a sample of the 2.5 ml reusable bag allowed in State law. Dodsworth inquired about tree-free paper bags. Kalil reported

Blachman's request to include a bi-annual review of the paper bag fee to keep up with inflation and make sure it is at a motivating level.

Ideally, the paper bag fee should go into effect when the split cart recycling begins, and bags are no longer needed for paper recycling setouts. This may not be possible due to delays in establishing new refuse rates, which are needed to fund purchase of carts and collection trucks. Staff will meet with contractors to discuss possible bagless collection of paper.

- b. Status of construction material recycling contract: At Council's direction, Staff re-issued the RFP and received four responses: Waste Management, Zanker Road, Urban Ore, and a joint response from Allied Waste and East Stockton Recycling. Schultze-Allen was on the interview panel, in his capacity as recycling coordinator for Emeryville –not representing the Commission. Commissioners will review Council report after City Manager approves. Item is tentatively scheduled on the 2/26 Council meeting.
- c. Status of Refuse Rate Analysis: The City Manager's office is reviewing the analysis. A city council workshop on rate and fees is tentatively scheduled for February 26, 2008. Kalil will attend.

The Cost of Service model is complex, and must isolate revenue streams for the different lines of business. For example, Street sweeping may not be property related because it is in the public right of way, and removes leaves from street trees mostly owned by the City. Therefore, street sweeping may not be fundable from refuse rates. Such issues are not easily resolved. The delay in the rate analysis continues to delay split cart and other programs.

- d. Status of Transfer Station Feasibility Study: Discussion of the nature and content of the study, its relationship to the future design of the facility, and the format for Commissioner review the RFP. This is an order of magnitude pro-forma analysis. The feasibility study will be based upon Zero Waste concepts. Staff reported that the study will concentrate on environmental analysis of site, inventory of operations and assets, surrounding transportation and land uses, and an emphasis on financing options. The chosen firm will also produce an RFP for design and one for build. Kalil reported on subcommittee development of policy guidelines. Nava stated that policy information should be in the information area of the RFP. The input of the city recycling contractors during the study is vital and will be solicited. Tam requested seeing the RFP so commission could recommend modifications. The transfer station rebuild subcommittee is the core-working group to do the initial review.

At 8:45, M/S Tam/Dodsworth to extend the meeting to 9:25.

- 7. Report on Green Corridor Partnership and its relationship to the West Berkeley plan update: by Kalil. In the interest of time, this was postponed to February.

8. New Business

- a. Election of officers: Commissions are required to hold elections in February. Jensen will not seek the Chair position again. Kalil and Tam expressed interest in being Chair. The City recommends Annual training for Commissioners, and requires training for new officers. Shared duties and time commitments were discussed.
- b. Catalog Choice endorsement: Ecology Center is co-sponsoring a national database where one can select catalogs one no longer wants to receive. The organization forwards cancellation requests to publishers. Catalog Choice is seeking letters of support from cities and organizations. M/S Schultze-Allen/Dodsworth to recommend endorsement by the City of Berkeley of the catalog Choice Program as an effective means of waste reduction. Passed 7/0/0.
- c. Commission work plan: Staff provided a list of current projects that should parallel a new work plan and additions were suggested. Tabled until new officers are elected.

9. Staff asked contractors to prepare reports for the February meeting, when they would normally be due. Contractors will report on 3rd and 4th quarters of 2007.

10. Staff reports: Levy reported that the residential food scrap participation continues to be high, with a 12% drop in residential refuse and a 37% increase in organic materials. Based on the 2000 waste characterization study, the program is capturing 35% of the residential food, paper and plant debris that was being landfilled.

11. Future agenda items and meeting dates:

- a. The City Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan presentation and public comment will take half of the meeting time. An extra meeting on March 3 may be necessary to do this, and Commission's other work.
- b. Green Corridor Partnership
- c. New recycling contracts anticipated for review in April
- d. Presentation by Bernie Lenhoff – operating manager of the Green Waste Recycling Yard.
- e. Work Plan
- f. Feasibility study for transfer station rebuild

12. Adjourn: M/S Kalil/Schultze-Allen to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.