



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, November 28, 2011
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chair Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:05 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Saborio, Jensen, Halperin, Tam, Schultze-Allen (7:14)

Commissioners absent: Bartlett

Staff: Ken Etherington - Solid Waste Division Manager, Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Debbie Deltoro

2. Approve Agenda: Kalil moved to reorder agenda item #7 – Division Update, to #6. M/S/C Tam/Jensen to approve amended agenda 6/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp suggested that Berkeley consider presenting at the Aug 2012 CRRA Conference and provided a handout outlining a possible approach to our collective view of discards as resources. Jeff Belchamber reported a substantial drop in market prices for recyclables in November and a status update on the #5 plastics pilot. Jeff reported that CCC has submitted a Non-Profit grant for container line improvements to StopWaste.org.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Kalil reported on the Public Hearings on the County's Mandatory Recycling and Single-use Bag ordinances. She reported that there was unanimous support for the ordinances, with many desiring that the Bag ordinance apply to all retail. Kalil stated that Berkeley would consider expanding the types of merchants covered, possibly phasing-in on a schedule like our previous draft ordinance. Halperin reported that a new electronics recycling operation called Green Citizen has opened at 1971 Shattuck. Tam reported that a free book exchange has opened on San Pablo in El Cerrito. He also reported on the compost facility closure in Kern County due to the Hydrogen Sulfide worker deaths. It was reported that the Transfer Station is now accepting unwanted medication under a new EBMUD program. Kirkpatrick suggested that a press release or website announcement on this program would be helpful.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2011:

M/S/C Jensen/Kirkpatrick to approve the October 24, 2011 minutes 7/0/0

6. Division Update: Etherington reported that he visited the City of San Jose and toured their MRF where they sort multi-family trash. Through recycling and composting processes, they are

able to divert 85% of the waste from 80,000 multi-family units. Prior source separated efforts alone in their multi-family sector were only diverting 8-10%.

Etherington updated on the Council process for the Landfill and C&D contracts. Staff stands by their original recommendation of Waste Management due to ability to meet the scope of the RFP. Union issues with both companies, and complications of Republic being headquartered in Arizona, were both discussed. Council will revisit the issue on Tuesday December 6th, where they will be presented with a supplemental information report that addresses their specific questions. The Commission approved the following resolution: **We the Zero Waste Commission resolve to support the staff recommendation of Waste Management for procurement of landfill and C&D sorting services. Commissioners M/S/C (Tam/Halperin) Ayes: Kalil, Tam, Schultze-Allen, Halperin, Kirkpatrick, Saborio; Noes: none; Abstain: Jensen Absent: Bartlett.**

Etherington reported that Council has approved the purchase of 10 new collection vehicles. 5 will be CNG and 5 will be clean diesel. Some union disagreement on this truck purchase, in spite of repeated meetings with SEIU, was discussed. The new trucks will be able to be used in a one or two operator - as well as an automated or semi-automated manner. New routing software is being utilized to reroute the City for efficient single-operator routing wherever possible. These route changes will incur some service day changes which will be coordinated with the Ecology Center for consistency. Cart placement in preparation for automated collection was discussed. Kirkpatrick suggested our outreach be designed to state our set-out requirements, but to also state some options for effective set-outs at unique property situations. Daniel Maher reported that Ecology Center is drafting a cart hanger which will help to train residents on proper cart set-out and utilization of their recycling carts.

Kalil asked for a year-end update on operations, financials and planning for the Transfer Station. Etherington reported that PC Scales has been installed at the Transfer Station for more efficient in-bound and out-bound weighing and reporting of loads. A new Transfer Station drainage system continues to be worked on. Jeff Belchamber stated that he has a quote for a container pile cover, but he is waiting for other infrastructure projects to be finalized before beginning the cover project. He also reported on the clothing collection program offered at the drop-off area at CCC.

7. Council Advancement of Clean Cities/Franchise Fee Study Resolution: Kalil reported that Council agreed to consider an alternate Clean Cities funding mechanism during the Strategic Planning process.

8. 2011 Accomplishments & 2012 Goals: Kalil gave an overview of the accomplishments in 2011, including the implementation and increased tonnage of the recycling cart program; our increased organics diversion; progress on utilizing new technologies; refuse fund budget balancing; and building new relationships between the Commission, the Public Works Department and Solid Waste & Recycling Division. She stated her hopes for continued discussion and progress on the Strategic Plan in order to move us towards our goals in 2012.

8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: The meeting schedule for 2012 was provided.

9. Adjourn: M/S/C Kirkpatrick/Schultze-Allen to adjourn at 9:05 7/0/0