



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, May 20, 2009
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chairwoman Nashua Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:08 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Jensen, Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Oatfield, Schultze-Allen, Tam (7:11), Blachman (7:11)

Commissioners absent: Dodsworth

Staff: Andy Schneider - Recycling Program Manager; Tania Levy – Analyst

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher of the Berkeley Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Centers (CCC); and Residents Leila Khatapoush and Adam Heffler.

2. Presentation: Resources for Multi-Family Recycling – Mark Spencer from

StopWaste. Mark presented multi-family recycling information with a PowerPoint and informal discussion. He said that StopWaste estimates that about 30% of residential housing in the county is multi-family. Since 2000, StopWaste has provided over \$126,000 to member agencies for Multi-family support. Multi-family properties often deal with the challenges of lack of space, access, compliance and turnover. Property managers often have some misconceptions regarding their tenant's ability to participate. Often tenants want the ability to recycle, but do not know how to ask for it. We discussed the right to recycle and model lease language. Mark also mentioned some interesting talking points connecting recycling and composting to greenhouse gas reduction and climate change.

3. Approve Agenda: M/S Tam/Jensen to approve the agenda 7/0/0

4. Comments from the Public: Jeff Belchamber announced that CCC is having an Open House/BBQ on July 2nd from 10:00-4:00. Leila Khatapoush stated that she is seeing more incorrect recycling, possibly due to reluctance to pay refuse rates.

5. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Kalil announced that Urban Ore has successfully purchased the property that they have been operating from; Schultze-Allen announced that the Alameda County Fair (7/1-7/20) is making Thursdays - Green Days. He also mentioned The National Recycling Coalition is considering disbanding, or merging with Keep America Beautiful. He attended the Starbucks' "Cup Summit" in Seattle; Starbucks wants all of their paper and plastic cups to be accepted as recyclable by 2012; they use 3 billion cups annually. Tam provided handouts explaining that StopWaste will raise their fees on landfills, and newly apply the fees to materials used as Alternative Daily Cover. He stated that the Potrero Hills Landfill could be closed to preserve wetlands, since other area landfills have excess capacity.

6. Approve Meeting Minutes of 3/23/09: Kalil asked for a correction to the 3/23 minutes - From: *“The chair asked that the commission create a resolution to support the proposed rate increase”*.

To: *“The Chair asked Tracy Vesely if she had an expectation of a resolution of support from the Commission. Vesely stated that it would be desirable”*.

Tam asked for clarification of the correction of the 2/23 minutes. The change was

From: *“the Commission will back a rate increase”*.

To: *“the Commission will remain involved in the rate structure process and will be available for public discussion”*.

M/S Schultze-Allen/Kalil to approve minutes of 3/23/09 7/0/0

7. Legislation Update: Levy described the status of key State legislative proposals. AB 68 and AB 87 setting a fee on plastic and paper bags and AB 283 (Extended Producer Responsibility) are unlikely to pass because Committee analysts project high implementation costs. AB 473 (Blumenfield), requiring multi-family buildings to offer recycling service, has passed the Assembly on a 48 to 29 vote, and is now in the Senate. Proponents of AB473 are asking for letters of support from local jurisdictions.

Multifamily Recycling Resolution:

The Zero Waste Commission of the City of Berkeley supports AB 473, which would require all multi-family buildings to offer recycling services as of July 1, 2010. The state law, and local regulations implementing it, will make the implementation of the city’s multi-family programs more successful. The Commission requests that our Council adopt a resolution supporting this bill, and encourages the city’s legislative representatives to also support this bill. **M/S Kalil/Oatfield 6/0/0 (Schultze-Allen abstains)**

8. Bay Friendly Resolution: Levy presented the Bay Friendly Landscape resolution, which will set standards for new City landscape construction and remodels, based on a model from StopWaste.org. Cities who adopt resolutions are eligible for certain grant funds and technical assistance. Parks and Public Works staff affirm that they can meet the requirements, and that Bay Friendly landscaping reduces water and maintenance costs.

The Zero Waste Commission supports the Berkeley Bay Friendly Landscaping Resolution. M/S Blachman/Schultze-Allen 7/0/0

Blachman leaves 9:05

9. Division Update: Schneider reported that City Council approved the protest vote process for the proposed rate increase. There was no public opposition to the rate increase and no opposition to the waste elements in the Climate Action Plan. Tam asked if an increase to franchise fees was being pursued along with our rate increase. Staff responded that we are first adjusting our transfer station rates, but that it is under consideration.

Schneider reported on our progress towards 75%. Berkeley's current diversion rate is 61%. Kalil asked for more details at the June meeting on progress towards 75% and how the commission can support these efforts. The recycling and composting program at City Hall was successfully implemented, and accepted by City staff. Kalil forwarded a request from the Permit Service Center for a comprehensive recycling and waste reduction overhaul. Implementation at City Hall took substantial staff time, purchase of containers, and assistance from UCB sustainability class, so is not easily replicated. Mayor's aide is focusing on the Plastic Bag ordinance; Schultze-Allen worried about cost of an Environmental Impact Report if a successful lawsuit requires one.

Adjourn: M/S Schultze-Allen/Kirkpatrick to adjourn at 9:15 pm 6/0/0