



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, October 26, 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 7:17 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Kalil, Jensen, Oatfield, Tam, Blachman (7:20)

Commissioners absent: Nava, Smartt, Kirkpatrick (excused)

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher of the Berkeley Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; residents Asa Dodworth, Leila Khatapoush, Heather Abrams, Katherine Lockwood, Julian Sproul & Cameron.

2. Approve Agenda: M/S Steen/Oatfield to approve the agenda 4/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Mary Lou Van Deventer requested answers to five issues: A list of capitol expenditures; detailed non-personnel expenses; re-consider bi-weekly dry rubbish collection; a current solid waste management plan; and comments about a shared recycling facility for Oakland and Berkeley. Sara MacKusick briefed the Commission on how the SWMD has decided to take over the collection, management and funding of the Universal Waste collection program that CCC currently handles. This will be added as an agenda topic for the November meeting and discussed further.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: None

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2009: Tam added the statement that OT as a percentage of the total wages did not seem high compared to, e.g., San Francisco Public Safety personnel. Tam corrected the statement about shredding garden trimmings to: Etherington said that shredding would not help because loads are already at maximum legal weight. Tam also corrected the statement: Staff is preparing an Information Report for Council agenda on November 17, with earliest Council adoption not possible until the January 19 or 26, 2010 Council meetings. **M/S Oatfield/Kalil to approve the minutes 5/0/0**

6. Plastic Bag Ordinance Review and Public Hearing Review: Schneider reported on the Public Hearing held on October 19th. We received positive public comments from all speakers except one, who proposed a small fee on all bags rather than banning any. Staff continues to meet with merchant groups for additional comments. We will be compiling all public comments and considering them as we move our draft ordinance forward. Schneider agreed to provide additional information on bag descriptions, definitions and exemptions for certain bags. Information item is scheduled for the November 17 Council meeting.

7. Division Update:

Refuse Fund Update: Kalil reported on Etherington's plan to provide his proposed cost cutting efforts at the November meeting. Kalil questioned whether our transfer station rate increases have contributed to our reduced incoming tonnage. She added how our new routing software will offer some efficiencies and cost savings. There was additional discussion of the possibility of bi-weekly rubbish collection and some of the potential health and operational concerns.

Contract Update: Schneider reported that new Ecology Center and CCC contracts are being negotiated. The contracts are being reviewed and discussed separately and changes will include how payments and fees are handled between the City and the two contractors. There was discussion of control of commodities and how that affects our highest and best use goals. Schneider stated that many of the decisions regarding these contracts are being made at a higher level. Additional information from Etherington will be expected at the November meeting.

8. Legislation Update: Tam reported that Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed every piece of environmental legislation.

9. M/S/C Kalil/Kirkpatrick to Adjourn at 9:10 PM