



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, June 28, 2010
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chair David Tam called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:06 PM

1. Roll Call

Commissioners present: Tam, Jensen, Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Becca Mason (for Blachman)

Commissioners absent: Moos, Gomez, Bartlett, Blachman (excused and substituted).

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager; Ken Etherington - Division Manager, Claudette Ford – Public Works Director; Tania Levy – Associate Analyst.

Members of the Public: Martin Bourque & Daniel Maher and Mark Gorell of the Ecology Center (EC); Sara MacKusick & Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Marilee Mitchell – Berkeley resident.

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Kalil/Jensen to approve the agenda 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: None

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: None

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2010: M/S/C Jensen/Kalil approve minutes 5/0/0

6. Overview of Diversion Fee Recommendation: (Claudette Ford)

The Department is requesting Council approval for a diversion fee of \$3.35 per/month from households and commercial properties, which will raise about \$1,000,000. The City Manager agreed with the Commission's recommendations that the diversion fee have a one year sunset, while a sustainable rate structure is devised. The Department reduced the \$3.7 million deficit in the FY2010 budget through improved efficiency and deferred capital costs. If the fee is not approved, FY 2011 will have a \$1.4 million deficit. This could impact the BOSS contract, and delay the residential cart roll-out. The Diversion fee, cart purchase and Ecology Center contract amendment are on the June 29 Council agenda. Tam asked that the rate structure disclose the cost of Street Sweeping.

7. Presentation + Q&A - Plastics Recycling in China (Patty Moore)

Patty Moore is a consultant who has been studying the plastic industry since 1983. She visited China four times in the past two years, observing plastic recycling facilities. She addressed common myths, grades and contamination standards, and the processes and markets within China. China uses most of the recycled material for products made for local consumption, rather than export. Most is processed in thousands of small factories, often close to manufacturers of new products. Every resin has a use. Only 40% of the recycled plastic China uses is imported and the rest is generated within China. Therefore Chinese demand for U.S. material is unlikely to continue rising at current rates. US processors and manufacturers were also discussed.

Motion to extend meeting 30 minutes: M/S/C Kalil/Jensen 5/0/0

Commissioners and the public discussed the feasibility of adding more plastics to Berkeley's collection program. Plastic's value, handling costs and environmental impacts, will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Motion to extend meeting 10 minutes: M/S/C Kalil/Jensen 5/0/0

8. Subcommittee Update: Budget, Poaching, New: Facilities & Programs

The Commission established a new Subcommittee for Program and Facility Assessment and Solid Waste Policy with Jensen as chair. Kirkpatrick will continue to chair the Budget subcommittee. Kalil will join the budget subcommittee, and also assist Jensen. There is not yet a confirmed date for the Poaching report to Council, as the City Manager wanted further discussion with the Police Department and other stakeholders.

9. Division Update

- Residential Recycling Cart Program (Schneider); the Cart outreach and distribution program has been written into the Ecology Center Contract amendment. The cart purchase and the Ecology Center amendment are on the June 29 Council Agenda. Commission Ecology Center and Recycling Manager to bring outreach materials and discuss education at the next regular meeting.
- Bag Reduction Ordinance Update (Levy); AB 1998 passed the Assembly and its first Senate Committee. It is a viable compromise, and the California Grocers' Association, California Clean Cities, and the Governor are among the supporters. The City delayed pursuing an EIR for a local ordinance pending passage of AB 1998, to avoid unnecessary costs. The City of San Jose expects their Environmental Impact Report to withstand court challenges.

10. Adjourn: M/S/C Jensen/Kirkpatrick to adjourn at 9:50 PM 5/0/0