



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, January 23, 2012
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chair Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:02 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Saborio, Jensen, Tam, Bartlett, Halperin (7:05)
Schultze-Allen (7:10)

Commissioners absent: None

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

Members of the Public: Martin Bourque of the Ecology Center (EC); Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp of Urban Ore

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Jensen/Bartlett to approve amended agenda 7/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Martin Bourque reported that Ecology Center has ordered three new trucks, expected in July, in order to move to single operator routes. The Intelliwaste consultant report said 10 recycling routes would be needed, EC and the City are hoping to be able to accomplish with 9 single operator routes. Curb Alert flyers will be used to try to get more carts to the curb for more efficient collection and some locations will still require special collection service. Kalil stated that hopefully both EC and the City are planning for increased volumes in the future through both increased diversion and possibly additional material types.

Dan Knapp suggested inclusion of the ESA study findings in the current Strategic Plan process. He also reported that the City is planning to go out to RFP for salvage services at the City transfer Station. Schneider explained that this was just part of our normal contract review process. Kalil stated her expectation that the Commission is involved in the RFP process. Martin mentioned that this may be an opportunity to expand the salvage opportunities on the tip floor through better communication between contactor and tip floor staff.

Sara MacKusick reported that CCC has submitted a StopWaste.org grant to make modifications to the container line that would improve glass diversion and also enable the sorting of additional materials, including other plastics.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Schultze-Allen announced the annual NCRA Recycling Update on March 27th in Oakland. Bartlett announced current internships with PG&E and Clorox on waste to energy projects. Kalil reported she will be meeting with East Bay Regional Parks District on a dog waste digester program in local dog parks. Tam reported on the soon to re-open El Cerrito Recycling Center and that the Commission should consider a tour. Kirkpatrick announced Cal Athletics is striving for zero waste at their future public sporting events at Memorial Stadium.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2011: Kalil corrected Section 4 to state that “general support” was actually “unanimous support” and that Berkeley “would consider” rather than “should consider” expanding the bag ban to all retail. Section 6 was corrected from update on “plans” to “year-end update on operations, financials and planning for the Transfer Station”.
M/S/C Kirkpatrick/Halperin to approve the amended November 28, 2011 minutes 8/0/0

6. Strategic Plan Next Steps: Kalil reported on the two recent Strategic Plan meetings with the Public Works Director, Andrew Clough. All alternatives for best diversion and most efficient operations will be considered as we move forward. Kalil asked Mr. Clough to review the Subcommittee’s recommendations and suggested a group effort which would include staff, Commission and primary contractors. A Strategic Plan workshop will be planned for March in order to clarify the plan to accomplish functional zero waste, in a fiscally sound manner, by 2020. Numerous reference documents, including the ESA Report, Climate Action Plan, SRRE and 1990 Measure D language were discussed and suggested for Commission review and the Secretary agreed to circulate them.

7. Mandatory Recycling & Bag Ordinance Update: Schneider reported on the status of the two upcoming County-wide ordinances that will help cities reach their waste reduction & diversion goals. The differences between the state and county mandatory requirements were discussed and how it will affect operations in Berkeley. Outreach and enforcement plans by StopWaste.org were shared, as was their hope for uniform adoption of both ordinances throughout the county. Some Councilmembers want consideration of a bag ordinance that covers more retailers. Kalil suggested consideration of a phased approach to cover all retail after a reasonable period of outreach and stakeholder buy-in. Utilization of CALPIRG or other student groups to assist with outreach for both ordinances was suggested. Bourque asked if there is a provision for discontinuing recycling service for repeated contamination issues. Schneider stated the County’s expectation that information & training would be used to correct contamination issues. The Measure D audit and use of grant funds were discussed.

Motion to extend meeting 10 minutes M/S/C Tam/Jensen 8/0/0

8. Mixed Rigid Plastics Discussion: Schneider overviewed Berkeley’s historic stance on plastics and how we must evolve as packaging, technology, markets and environmental assurances evolve. We can no longer justify paying to landfill a material that has value and a potential reuse elsewhere. EC & CCC are considering the operational ramifications of adding specific plastics and will be working with staff to address this complex material type. Jensen asked that a reduction education campaign accompany any plastics program change and that more information on actual end products is needed.

Schultze-Allen left at 9:01

Bourque reminded the Commission that the current focus on rerouting for single operator trucks and dealing with current volume of recyclables make discussion of increasing volume difficult.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: Deferred

10. Adjourn: M/S/C Jensen/Halperin to adjourn at 9:10 7/0/0