



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, February 27, 2012
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue
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, Bartlett, Halperin, Schultze-Allen, Tam (7:25)

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 and Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp of Urban Ore

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

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp reported on the City's new West Berkeley Project development EIR and the ensuing SWBA lawsuit. How this project may impact the Transfer Station property and traffic patterns was discussed. Martin Bourque reminded about the NCRA Recycling Update on March 27th in Oakland and staff agreed to provide the Commission with an overview. Berkeley surpassing our 2010 diversion target, and how to include salvage tons in our diversion rate was discussed.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Jensen asked if future mandatory food waste collection would require participation at small businesses. Schneider responded that food and food soiled paper becomes a covered material for all businesses on July 1, 2014, but that the focus will be on food generating businesses. Better information on compostable bags for Council aides and our website was suggested. Keeping kitchen pails available for Berkeley residents to facilitate food waste participation was requested.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2012: Kirkpatrick corrected section 4 adding "Memorial Stadium" to Cal Athletics zero waste events. Tam corrected section 6 to "1990 Measure D language" and suggested changing "their" to "the" in operational ramifications in section 8. **M/S/C Tam/Bartlett to approve the amended January 23, 2012 minutes 8/0/0**

6. Officer Elections: Commissioner Kirkpatrick nominated Nashua Kalil for the Chair. It was seconded by Carlos Saborio and approved unanimously 8/0/0. Nashua Kalil nominated Doug Halperin for the Vice Chair. It was seconded by Ben Bartlett and approved unanimously 8/0/0.

Mixed Rigid Plastics Discussion: Schneider presented the progress on expanding the types of plastics Berkeley recycles. As markets and exports for rigid, non-bottle plastics have grown and stabilized, Berkeley has agreed to consider how adding other plastic containers to our curbside collection programs will impact contractor operations. Martin Bourque requested that we conduct a feasibility study to determine potential volumes of other plastic containers remaining in our waste stream so that Ecology Center could know the impacts on their routing and truck needs. He also stated that the 2008 Waste Characterization's methodology may not be indicative of the actual volumes in Berkeley. Considering the expected increased collection volume of both additional plastics and mandatory recycling, it is expected that Ecology Center's collection routes and number of trucks would need to be adjusted to accommodate this potential additional 20% increase. Staff will work with Ecology Center to plan a study for the potential volume increase. CCC has applied for a StopWaste container line upgrade grant which would allow the addition of another sorting platform and the ability to positively sort additional plastics. The County Recycling Board will vote on the approval of these grant funds on March 8th 2012. Once this upgrade is complete, CCC will sort non-bottle rigids from their drop-off and incidentals already in the container stream, until it can be determined how we will add it to our curbside collection programs. CCC will continue to research marketing options for other plastics in preparation for the acceptance change. Jensen asked for additional information on end uses of collected plastics and it was agreed that a plastics reduction campaign should accompany any new acceptance change. Martin Bourque requested a take-out fare ordinance to reduce some of the low grade and food soiled plastics and shift to compostable, ideally paper, alternatives. Adding plastic film drop-off at CCC was also discussed as super market drop-offs reduce after the bag ordinance becomes effective. Doug Halperin has been assigned as the Commission Liaison for the rigid plastics project and will be invited to future Plastics Discussion Group meetings on this issue.

7. Strategic Plan Next Steps: Kalil announced the upcoming Strategic Plan Subcommittee meeting on March 15th from 3:00-5:00 at the Transfer Station. The Subcommittee will continue to compile and develop a scope of topics for the draft strategic plan. Kalil indentified the lack of both recycling support staff and full-City route and account audit as an obstacle to moving forward with the strategic plan. Kalil then moved the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION OF THE ZWC #1:

In order to comply with the new Mandatory Recycling requirements, the ZWC resolves that:

-- Whereas mandatory multi-family and commercial recycling must be implemented in July of this year;
and,

-- Whereas it has been determined by the Division and the ZWC that an Outreach Coordinator is necessary to assist the Recycling Manager, specifically to:

a) conduct site visits to multi-family properties and commercial businesses and schools to assist in the set-up and implementation of recycling and composting systems.

b) assist with Green Business inspections.

c) assist with sustainable events as needed.

and,

-- Whereas Staff, with StopWaste's approval, has determined that Import Mitigation funds are eligible, and should be considered, to fund this contractor position.

We the Zero Waste Commission ask that the Division Manager move immediately to advertise the contract for the position of Outreach Coordinator and hire for this position without delay. Kalil/Jensen 8/0/0

Staff agreed to review timeline options in order to expedite this process.

RESOLUTION OF THE ZWC #2:

In order to comply with the new Mandatory Recycling requirements and advance zero waste by 2020, the ZWC resolves that:

-- Whereas the identification of non-participating properties in light of upcoming mandatory requirements is necessary;

-- Whereas the Division must clean-up outdated accounts and reduce the number of carts occupying our streets; and, Whereas the Division must create more collection efficiencies in order to meet both budget requirements and meet mandate standards, We, the ZWC, find that a full City audit of refuse and recycling service is required in 2012. The ZWC expects Staff to return in March with a plan, timeline and estimated cost for these necessary services. Kalil/Saborio 8/0/0

It was clarified that a full City audit of all services is warranted in order to re-capture lost revenue, identify non-participating properties, reduce curbside clutter and better control the commercial franchise accounts.

Schultze-Allen, Ben Bartlett left at 8:55

8. Mandatory Recycling & Bag Ordinance Update: Schneider clarified that non-bottle plastics are not considered a covered material in the Mandatory Recycling Ordinance.

Schneider reported on process of considering a City Ordinance that would expand the Single-use Bag Ban to all retail stores. Potential outreach and enforcement costs to the City in order to cover the additional 584 stores must be considered. Discussion of the CEQA actions required to utilize the Counties EIR for our project is scheduled with the City Attorney. Kalil referred back to Berkeley's draft ordinance and reminded that a planned phase-in of other retailers is an option for both the City and County to consider. This phase-in period offers the community an opportunity to adjust to the ordinance and allows retailers to use-up bag inventory. Staff will return to the Commission with their findings on the process and potential cost.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: Deferred

10. Adjourn: M/S/C Kirkpatrick/Jensen to adjourn at 9:10 6/0/0