



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, March 25, 2013
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard - 1326 Allston Way
Ratcliff Building, Willow Room

Vice Chair Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:10 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Kalil, Wenning, Twu, Davis, Schultze-Allen

Commissioners absent: Halperin (excused)

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: Sara MacKusick & Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center; Martin Bourque of the Ecology Center; Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Carolyn Dean; Ron Risi & Mina.

2. Approve Agenda:

M/S/C Wenning/Schultze-Allen to approve agenda 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Mary Lou Van Deventer reported on many of the Zero Waste Week events including the Youth Convergence, Sierra Club Zero Waste Activist training, Pier 96 MRF tour, EPR Roundtable, Recycling Update, Zero Waste International Alliance, and the variety of East Bay tours on including Davis St., DR3, the Berkeley Transfer Station Complex, El Cerrito Environmental Resource Center and the Urban Ore Reception. Mary Lou reported that overall, Berkeley's system and facilities were praised by the attendees who value high quality resource management. Martin Bourque reported on the City Council approval of the additional collection vehicle which will allow the additional of other plastics to our collection programs.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Davis & Twu reported on some of the Zero Waste Week Youth Convergence highlights. Schultze Allen attended and reported on the "Trashed" screening.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of Feb 25, 2013:

M/S/C Twu/Schultze-Allen to approve Feb. 25, 2013 minutes 5/0/0

6. CERT Emergency Exercise Notification: Kalil reported on the CERT Emergency Training announcement, with the importance of communication and fire prevention. She tied it into the importance of proper HHW storage and the need to have better HHW services for the Berkeley community. Based on a recommendation from Councilmember Wengraf, the Zero Waste Commission will consider a possible joint program with CEAC and Fire and Safety for more convenient HHW collection systems. Schneider reported on the current funding challenges of the existing HHW facilities and the plans for future funding options.

7. Berkeley Recycling MRF Upgrade Overview: Jeff Belchamber gave a PowerPoint presentation on the various MRF upgrades at Berkeley Recycling that improve efficiencies and accommodate the sorting of additional plastics. The container line upgrades, partially funded by a StopWaste grant, includes the star screen removal, line lengthening, additional sorting station, additional storage containers and a glass bunker rebuild. Jeff reported on the tons and revenue of non-bottle rigid plastics that have been sorted from the container line and the drop-off. Schneider reminded the Commission of some of the processing complications of recycling mixed plastic bales overseas. Jeff reported that the revenues are not covering the sorting costs of the mixed plastics. Jeff is preparing for the increased non-bottle rigid plastics volumes, once Other Plastic Containers are officially added to our curbside collection programs, with some additional upgrades planned for the near future. Aside from the StopWaste grant, all capital expenditures have been covered by Berkeley Recycling. A contract amendment will be necessary in order to officially add the new materials and to address the revenue/labor differential created by this low value material.

8. Division Update:

Plastics Program Expansion Overview: Schneider reported on the coordinated effort on the plastics program with Berkeley Recycling and Ecology Center. Identifying the acceptable plastic types for curbside and drop-off, size criteria, the proposed outreach timeline, and ideal messaging were all covered.

Refuse Rate Study RFP: Schneider reported that the Rate Study RFP will be released in May. Kalil requested that all current and future program costs, including new plastics and streetsweeping, be considered in this process. She proposed reconvening the Sustainable Rate Subcommittee in order to facilitate an informed rate process.

NCRA Recycle Update Summary: Schneider reported on a few of the speakers including Portland's every other week garbage collection. Other topics to be discussed at a later meeting.

9. Future Agenda Items: May meeting to be held on Tuesday May 21 due to holidays. Foodware Ordinance, HHW Partnership, Plastics Markets

10. Adjourn: M/S/C Schultze-Allen/Wenning to adjourn at 9:00 5/0/0