



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Zero Waste Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, April 22, 2013**  
**City of Berkeley Corporation Yard - 1326 Allston Way**  
**Ratcliff Building, Willow Room**

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

**1. Roll Call:**

**Commissioners present:** Halperin, Kalil, Wenning, Twu, Schultze-Allen

**Commissioners absent:** Davis (excused)

**Staff:** Ken Etherington – Zero Waste Division Manager, Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

**Members of the Public:** Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center; Miguel Martinez

**2. Approve Agenda:**

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

**3. Comments from the Public:** Jeff Belchamber announced some additional work being done on the container line to facilitate the better sorting of plastics.

**4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:** Kalil suggested that we continue to monitor legislative actions which pertain to waste issues. Current issues include a mattress recycling bill, plastic bag regulations, and pharmaceuticals. How to communicate with the City's Lobbyist, and the process for sending letters of support were discussed. Specifically, Commission support of the mattress bill SB 254 (Hancock) was requested. Schultze-Allen reported on an Ecology Center event he attended at Live Oak Park and an upcoming Measure M green infrastructure event on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also reported on a zero waste breakfast meeting where they discussed rates and a hope that StopWaste will contribute some policy guidance on rate structures as we move towards zero waste. Halperin reported on his effort to make Earth Day a national holiday. Kalil suggested that the Commission recommend proclaiming Earth Day a City holiday at the May meeting. Halperin asked how to best announce our commission vacancies. Options for website postings were discussed.

**5. Approve Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2013:** Kalil asked for a correction in section 4 to correct the movie title to "Trashed"; in section 6 to change it to "Based on a recommendation by Councilmember Wengraf, the ZWC will investigate a possible joint program..."; in section 7 striking "The analysis is complicated...at \$12/ton; and in section 8 to replace "reforming" with "reconvening".

**M/S/C Schultze-Allen/Kalil to approve amended March 25, 2013 minutes 5/0/0**

**6. Division Update:**

**Plastics Program & Marketing Issues:** Schneider reported on the volume of non-bottle rigids currently being sorted at Berkeley Recycling and the recent overseas price drop due to China's "Green Fence" policy. Considerations of program timing and acceptance guidelines were

discussed. Finding domestic markets to reduce our dependence on overseas markets was proposed. Material types will be considered for a modification of our food ware ordinance or our Polystyrene foam ban. Kalil reminded that our rate study must consider the costs of collecting and processing this, and all materials. Schneider also reported on Mike Biddle's presentation at UC Berkeley and the possibility of local mixed plastic processing if MBA Polymers reopens their Richmond plant. Plastics program roll-out timing was covered with public notification this summer.

**Compost Processing Issues:** Questions about how our compost processor is handling compostable plastics and bagged materials is leading to discussions with Recology Grover that will inform possible changes to our compost program acceptance.

**Plastic Bag Ordinance Update:** Discussions with the Planning Director regarding the possible all-retail bag ordinance led to a recommendation to watch SB 405 to see if it will supersede local bag ordinances or not.

**Waste to Energy Proposal Update:** City staff attended a WTE presentation by Energy-Inc. where they proposed a waste transformation process for Berkeley's waste stream. Office of Energy & Sustainable Development staff agreed to study the impacts, but the process seemed to contradict our current resource management philosophy.

**9. Future Agenda Items:** Recycling markets for odd items, Legislative updates, Budget outlook, Rate study, Diversion trend, UC Presentation from Lin King.

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