



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, January 27, 2014
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard - 1326 Allston Way
Ratcliff Building, Willow Room

Chair Halperin called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:05 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Halperin, Davis, Twu, Frink, Schultze-Allen (7:08)

Commissioners absent: Wenning (excused), McCarter

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

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher of Ecology Center; Jeff Belchamber & Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center; Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Miguel Martinez, Arthur Boone.

2. Approve Agenda: Request to move Rate Study Update to #6
M/S/C Frink/Davis to approve amended agenda 4/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Arthur Boone had three comments: 1) that he disagreed with the Mayor's recent description that our collection programs were "Cadillac services". He believes that they are essential, expected services. 2) He is looking for a venue for the Youth Convergence for Zero Waste Week; 3) That El Cerrito's LEED drop-off Center is a model that Berkeley should consider. Dan Knapp distributed a handout from he published in the Grassroots Berkeley Weekly in 1981 called "Recycled Trash – It Stinks". It is an interesting snapshot of how we considered sorting refuse and incineration during the development of the current Transfer Station. Mary Lou Van Deventer reported she is attending a Zero Waste Update in San Diego.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Twu reported on San Francisco's textile recycling efforts at clothing retailers. Davis reported on the Plastics Disclosure Project and how it relates to her Honors Thesis. Schultze-Allen reported on the Benchmarking Report which was mailed to all accounts in the County and the results for Berkeley was discussed. He also reported on the Trash Summit in San Jose, where they identified cigarette butts as a major water pollution source; and discussed reusable food packaging programs. Halperin read the Zero Waste Commission Charter (BMC 3.40.060) as we consider our 2014 work plan.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of Sept. 23 and Nov. 12, 2013: With no additional details provided via a report, the September 23 minutes were reviewed and approved as written. Twu suggested a revision adding "The study however continues the current practice of only charging for refuse and commercial food waste" to #6 on the November 12 minutes.
M/S/C to approve the Sept. 23 minutes as written, and the amended minutes of Nov. 12
Schultze-Allen/Twu 5/0/0

6. Rate Structure Update: Etherington reported that on December 3rd, the City Council requested more options on the rate study be presented at the February 25th meeting. The February Zero Waste Commission meeting is being moved to February 19th in order to provide a review and comment opportunity on the rate study. 218 protest vote in March with a 45 day response period. A public hearing and vote tally will be held at the Council Meeting on May 20th. An option to stagger the increase over a three year period is being proposed. The Chair asked about any provision to address the zero waste goal, and Etherington stated that either option will provide a reserve in the future, which could be used to support diversion programs. Etherington also reported that the recommended consultant for the Franchise Study will be reviewed by City Council in February. The Chair asked where funding for outreach staff will come from. Etherington stated that \$150,000 of outreach funding is provided per year in each rate option starting in 2015. Sara MacKusick suggested that the City define their needs by creating a Strategic Plan, similar to the ESA Solid Waste Management Plan from 2005. Etherington said that a consultant will be hired to develop a new Zero Waste Plan. The Secretary was asked to circulate the ESA and Climate Action Plans. Schultze-Allen stated that while outreach is good, programs do not run themselves. Schneider explained some of the service impacts that can be expected once Mandatory Phase II becomes effective on July 1, 2014, and that on-site technical assistance will be needed in order to implement these programs effectively.

Schultze-Allen made the following motion:

In response to the findings in the rate study, The Zero Waste Commission recommends the addition of an environmental fee of \$1.00 per parcel, per month to be earmarked for on-site technical assistance to increase diversion and meet our zero waste goal.

M/S/C: Schultze-Allen/Frink; Ayes: Davis, Frink, Halperin, Schultze-Allen, Twu; Noes: None; Abstain: None; Absent: McCarter

7. Approve 2014 Meeting Schedule: The commission approved the normal 4th Monday schedule with the exception of February 19 and May 27.

M/S/C: Davis/Twu 5/0/0

8. Commission Officer Nominations for Feb. election: Nominees for the officer positions were discussed for an election in February.

9. 2014 Commission Work Plan: Discussion of a Strategic Plan

M/S/C Schultze-Allen/Halperin to extend the meeting 10 minutes 5/0/0

10. Division Update:

New Council Report Sustainability Section will support recommendations that have an environmental benefit.

Benchmarking Fee / HHW Fee discussion with info on opt-out notices mailed to all Berkeley accounts.

Commercial Recycling Service Day Consolidation will align and clarify service days for all commercial accounts.

8. Future Agenda Items: 2014 Work Plan, ESA Plan review, Contractor Quarterly reports

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