



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, March 24, 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, Schultze-Allen, Wenning, Davis, Twu

Commissioners absent: Mecklai (unexcused), Frink (unexcused)

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher of Ecology Center; Sara MacKusick & Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center; Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Miguel Martinez, Steen Jensen, Nancy Gorrell, Caroline Dean.

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Davis/Wenning to approve agenda 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp asked for feedback or revisions on his “Building an Ecology of Commerce” document previously provided to the Commission. Mary Lou reported on an effort to redirect the proposed Printed Paper & Packaging EPR policy in British Columbia.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Davis announced that she is making a recycling video documentary. Schneider briefly reported on highlights from the NCRA Recycling Update event at the Freight & Salvage on March 18th, including Every Other Week rubbish collection, EPR and other issues of interest to the ZWC. Halperin asked for the status of the Division Manager position and reported on the Rate report presented to Council on February 25th.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of Feb. 19, 2014: Davis corrected previous Commissioner Comment from “Master’s” to “Honor’s” thesis.

M/S/C to approve the Feb 19, 2014 minutes as amended Schultze-Allen/Wenning 5/0/0

6. Council Referral: Compostable Food Serviceware Ordinance: Davis announced that she & Mecklai will be assisting with the Sustainable Food Serviceware Ordinance. Schneider reported on the research and process necessary to create a sustainable food Serviceware ordinance that will be acceptable to all stakeholders.

7. Zero Waste Partner Annual Reports:

Ecology Center: Daniel Maher provided a handout and presented Ecology Center’s 2013 Annual Report. He covered the evolving program and the challenges Ecology Center faces in continuing a high level of service with reduced staffing and resources. Other topics covered were customer service tracking; single operator routing; fleet additions; plastics program implementation and public education; and the cart relabeling project. Schneider gave an overview of the benefits of the Ecology Center’s services to the City.

Berkeley Recycling (CCC): Jeff Belchamber & Sara MacKusick provided a handout and presented Berkeley Recycling's 2013 Annual Report. Referring to the handout details & graphs, they covered gradual tonnage reductions, reduced market prices; the success of the new plastics program; potential funding losses from the state; current and future stormwater compliance efforts; and the overall budget shortfall - caused primarily by our delay on developing a reimbursement mechanism for the new plastics program. Schneider gave an appreciation of the services that Berkeley Recycling provides to the City.

Urban Ore: Mary Lou Van Deventer gave a Power Point presentation which included a history of Urban Ore's long standing relationship with the City and the efforts to salvage reusable goods that would otherwise be on their way to the landfill. Historic photos of our former landfill, gave a great perspective on the evolution of actions & philosophies surrounding the wasting of resources. Mary Lou described the process of their Eco Park property purchase and the current no-cost contract at the City's Transfer Station, where we benefit from free, trained, on-site salvage of materials that we would otherwise have to transport and pay to landfill.

M/S/C Davis/Two to extend the meeting 10 minutes 5/0/0

Through our gate fees and reduced landfilling fees, Mary Lou reported a \$99,000 benefit to the City in 2013. Schneider thanked Urban Ore for their years of excellent services to the City and to all the contractors for assisting the City to keep moving towards our Zero Waste Goal.

8. Future Agenda Items: ESA Report Review

9. Adjourn: M/S/C Davis/Wenning to adjourn at 9:10 5/0/0