



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, April 28, 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, Frink, Twu (7:17)

Commissioners absent: none

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: 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, Beck Cowles.

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Wenning/Schultze-Allen to approve agenda 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp reported how El Cerrito financed the rebuild of their drop-off center and will be able to share documents regarding their process. Beck Cowles introduced herself as a former Ecology Center employee who might be interested in becoming a ZW Commissioner. Mary Lou Van Deventer distributed a handout and voter initiative on the West Berkeley Plan and how it could inform the Zero Waste Division's strategic plan and possible transfer station rebuild.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Davis announced that she will be finalizing her plastics thesis and will be presenting it on May 9th. Schultze-Allen announced the CRRA conference in San Jose on August 4-6. Halperin commented that more public recycling must be considered for the new BART plaza and other downtown locations. Davis mentioned a location where sidewalk recycling & composting are managed by a local business. Twu asked if a new type of plastic box is recyclable, as a business he knows is having them set aside.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2014: Request that the "Building an Ecology of Commerce" document title would have quotes.

M/S/C to approve the March 24, 2014 minutes as amended Schultze-Allen/Davis 6/0/0

6. Division Update: Schneider provided an update on the following topics:

Rate Increase/218 Process: Rate Study process was approved at the Feb 25 Council Meeting. Halperin and Davis represented the ZWC with public comments supporting the need for on-site technical assistance. The Proposition 218 protest mailer was sent March 28. 311 is prepared to answer most questions. Public Hearing with vote tabulation will be held at the May 20 Council Meeting.

Mandatory Phase II Preparations: Phase II of Mandatory Recycling begins July 1, 2014, with actual enforcement beginning Jan 1, 2015. StopWaste is preparing to begin targeted mailings in

May. Zero Waste Division preparing for increased site inspections and assistance requests. Waste account data issues persist.

HHW Fee and Program Plan: StopWaste conducted Proposition 218 process for the Household Hazardous Waste Fee and held their first public hearing on March 26th. Most verbal protests were from Multi-family property owners. Public vote passed with 18% protesting, however the Recycling Board did not approve as-is and will revisit the item on May 28. CEAC requesting additional services for Berkeley and are considering numerous options.

CCC Plastics Contract Amendment: The expansion of our plastic acceptance has been successful in diverting over 20 tons of materials per month that were previously landfilled. Material sales revenue is minimal, so a contract amendment is required to cover CCC for the plastics sorting and handling costs. Plastics program costs were included in the rate study, but did not cover the past sorting costs, so the amendment will address costs prior to FY15 and a revenue reducing mechanism for future costs.

Sustainable Food Serviceware Ordinance: With Mecklai's resignation, Twu and Frink are identified as ZWC research leads. Berkeley's current ordinance will be reviewed for background and other local ordinances will be researched for policy and process that will be useful in creating our own sustainable food Serviceware ordinance. Specific composting facility feedstock requirements must be considered and outreach and enforcement needs will be assessed.

7. Strategic Planning: As part of the Strategic Plan development process we reviewed the existing guiding documents.

ESA Report Review: An overview of the ESA 2005 Solid Waste Management Plan Update was provided. Many recommendations have been implemented and some are still open for consideration. The report recommended revising our rates to include a recycling fee and itemized services and consideration of every-other-week dry rubbish collection if composting was mandatory across all sectors. A large section was dedicated to options for rebuilding the Transfer Station into a full resource recovery environmental center.

Climate Action Plan: The 2009 CAP Report was discussed as our current policy-guiding document. Many of the recommendations to achieve waste-generated GHG reductions have been implemented including the residential split recycling carts, recycling more plastics, improving school district diversion programs, etc. Improved outreach and education on our diversion programs will continue to be a focus.

Chair Halperin requested that the Zero Waste Commission have an opportunity to give input for the Commercial Franchise Study and to also have representation on the interview panel for the future Zero Waste Division Manager position.

8. Future Agenda Items: Strategic Plan

9. Adjourn: M/S/C Schultze-Allen/Davis to adjourn at 9:00 6/0/0