



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Tuesday, May 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, Schultze-Allen, Twu, Davis (7:37)

Commissioners absent: Wenning (Excused), Frink (Excused)

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

Members of the Public: Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Schultze-Allen/Twu to approve agenda 3/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp reported that Urban Ore did not get enough signatures to continue their West Berkeley Plan initiative, and that they are speaking in DC against incinerators in June.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Twu asked about the recycling cart storage area fire. Schneider reported on the damage and effort to recover, and properly store, the recycling cart inventory and that remaining inventory will sustain the contract. The Chair requested updates on state legislation, including single-use bag actions. Schultze-Allen reported that the state bill is now more agreeable to bag manufacturers and stands a better chance of passing. The Chair suggested we all make efforts to recruit new Commissioners for our vacancies.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2014: M/S/C to approve the April 28, 2014 minutes as amended Schultze-Allen/Twu 3/0/0

6. Collection Rate Increase Agreements: Schneider reported that the rate increase was approved by public vote and by City Council on May 20th. We discussed the refuse can size migration and proposed uses for the eventual reserve. We discussed how multi-family will now be charged for organics collection and that residential organics should not be limited to 64 gallon carts.

7. Sustainable Food Serviceware Ordinance: Schneider reported on the research conducted on neighboring city's ordinances - how they are based on banning polystyrene foam packaging and all allow recycling as an option. He stated his concern with increasing the use and inclusion of compostable plastics in the current composting process as those materials will threaten the facility's OMRI certification. Problematic cutlery was discussed, with Schultze-Allen providing info on Emeryville's experience. Twu & Davis reported on their research in the business community and how promoting reusables should be the basis, or at least part, of the ordinance. Requiring a fee for single-use disposable items was also discussed. Public recycling and composting opportunities must be available to support the public efforts as well. With

recommendations from the subcommittee, we plan for further discussion in June and action in July.

8. Division Update: Schneider gave the following updates:

Commercial Franchise Study: Overviewed the process and research for the Commercial Franchise Study with HF&H. We discussed some of the issues surrounding the current franchised hauler activity. With the final report expected in September, the ZWC formally requested an HF&H presentation, with an opportunity for input, at the July 28th meeting.

Mandatory Phase II: Reported on the public response to the Mandatory Recycling notifications, with numerous multi-family properties starting the required service. Data limitations continue to complicate compliance verification. We discussed our plan for on-site assistance to support the new services.

Audit Report – Plan for Zero Waste Goal: Reported on the audit process, title and findings and how the audit recommendations will support the City’s quest for zero waste. The Commission will have input into the creation of the Strategic Plan and other recommendations.

8. Future Agenda Items: Food Serviceware Ordinance, HF&H presentation, Strategic Plan

9. Adjourn: M/S/C Davis/Schultze-Allen to adjourn at 9:05 4/0/0