



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Zero Waste Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, September 28, 2015
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard - 1326 Allston Way
Ratcliff Building, Willow Room

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

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Cowles, Watson, Twu, Noonan, Sutherland, Halperin (7:10)

Commissioners absent: Wenning (unexcused)

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager, Manuel Hector – Acting Zero Waste Division Manager

Members of the Public: Dan Knapp Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Daniel Maher of Ecology Center; Jeff Belchamber of CCC; Emily Morse

2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C to approve agenda Watson/Sutherland 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp shared a copy of a new novel based on Berkeley's recycling system. The book is "Wasted" by John Barry.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Twu reported that he is researching other City Commissions that may be dealing with similar issues to the ZWC. The CEAC Multi-family recycling signage and the Planning Commission's new building requirements were of common interest. Chair Cowles restated the need to fill the two remaining commission vacancies.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of August 24, 2015: M/S/C to approve the August 24, 2015 Minutes: Sutherland/Watson 6/0/0

6. Contractor Presentation Urban Ore: Dan Knapp & Mary Lou Van Deventer shared a PowerPoint presentation which detailed their successful salvage and resale operation that has operated in Berkeley for 35 years. They were able to demonstrate how discards have value if you can keep them from getting landfilled and instead make them available for others to use. Urban Ore has created a sustainable enterprise and has assisted the City in reducing landfilled waste. In addition to the donations they accept at the EcoPark, Urban Ore also salvages nearly 1000 tons of building supplies and household goods each year from materials that the public has already paid to dispose of at the Transfer Station. This contract is a great benefit to City as we do not have to pay to transport that material to landfill, nor do we pay Urban Ore for their on-site labor and we keep the public disposal revenue.

7. Zero Waste Goal - Assessment and Redefinition: Watson presented an agenda/outline structure for the various ideas and proposals that the Commission identifies as priorities. The goal is to encourage participation and to have an organized method to develop ideas into policies and programs that can help us achieve our zero waste goal.

8. Commission Work Plan: Chair Cowles presented a Commission Work Plan flowchart which outlines a process for topic preparation, research, and discussion, which then leads to recommendations and report writing, and eventually Council action. Improving public participation in Commission meetings and topic discussions through other public forums was discussed.

11. Future Agenda Items: Commission Work Plan, Commission recruitment, Strategic Planning, CEAC referral, Commercial Franchise, Public space recycling.

12. Adjourn: M/S/C Sutherland/Twu to adjourn at 9:00 6/0/0