

Zero Waste Commission
Foodware Subcommittee Special Meeting
Thursday, July 12, 2018
Berkeley Library, West Branch @ 1125 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702

Minutes

The meeting was convened at 2:34 pm with Chrise de Tournay, Chair, presiding.

Members of the public present: 11

Councilmembers present: 1

Staff present: 1

Public Comment: 6

1. Roll Call:
Present: Chrise de Tournay, Annette Poliwka
Absent: Katie McKinstry
2. Approval of July 12, 2018 Special Meeting Agenda
M/S/C (de Tournay/Poliwka) to approve the agenda for the July 12, 2018 Special Meeting
Ayes: Unanimous; Absent: Katie McKinstry
3. Overview of the Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, presented by Councilmember Sophie Hahn
4. Overview of recycling markets, background and context for the Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, presented by Martin Bourque, Executive Director of the Ecology Center
5. Presentation on the opportunities for businesses to reduce single use foodware, by Christopher Slafter, Clean Water Action
6. Public Comment on the proposed Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance
7. Announcement on upcoming public meetings, including Zero Waste Commission on July 23rd and either September 5 or 6 at the Sports Basement in South Berkeley
8. Additional comments on Berkeley Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance, by Councilmember Sophie Hahn.
9. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 3:24pm
M/S/C (de Tournay/Poliwka) to adjourn the meeting
Ayes: Unanimous; Absent: Katie McKinstry

July 12, 2018

Special Meeting of the Foodware Subcommittee to solicit public input on the proposed Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance

11 members of the public attended. 6 public comments.

Summary of Spoken Public Comments:

1. Anonymous Commenter (note taker didn't catch name)
 - In favor of the proposed ordinance
 - Current system is unacceptable
 - City-wide approach is best – more efficient/faster than relying on individuals
 - People are busy and wont always remember to bring reusables
 - The fee helps people realize that the disposable foodware item takes resources and creates waste that ends up in the landfill
 - Will promote social change in how people see disposables
 - It will make it less weird to Bring Your Own Container (BYOC); it normalizes it

2. Helen Walsh
 - People with disabilities agree with the environmental approach
 - There is a difference between convenience and a tool when it comes to persons w/disabilities, the elderly, children, people that have medical issues
 - Should make a consideration in regards to straws for people with disabilities
 - Important to provide businesses with alternatives
 - Compostable straws put businesses at a disadvantage
 - There is no current solution
 - Work with the disability community – engage with people with disabilities
 - We are environmentalists with disabilities

3. Alison Piccoli – California Restaurant Association
 - Concern from restaurants regarding the ability to sanitize customer's containers if BYOC
 - Concern regarding germs transferring to serving utensils
 - Concern about fee for disposable foodware

4. Meri Sol - StopWaste.org
 - Concern about the inclusion of bags in the definition of “disposable foodware” because there are discrepancies in the language between the County's Reusable Bag Ordinance and the City's proposed Single Use Foodware and Litter Reduction Ordinance
 - This is the most forward thinking policy on reducing foodware out there
 - It is groundbreaking to insist on reusables for dine-in
 - Charges will encourage behavior change

- Should consider how to take the burden off of individuals to BYOC
- It would be better to have reusable containers available for customers
- If reusables are available in the restaurant, it wont slow down the serving line as could happen with customers bringing their own containers
- It needs to be easy for customers to drop off dirty reusables (cups and containers)
- Meri mentioned after the meeting that she will provide detailed written recommendations prior to the Sept. 24 meeting

5. Annie Farman – Plastic Pollution Coalition

- In favor of ordinance
- It is groundbreaking
- Impact would be similar to plastic bag ban
- Support a city-wide reusable container program
- Lots of businesses have cited operational concerns with BYOC
- Consider tax breaks for reusable container system

6. Jessica – GreenFire Law

- In favor of ordinance
- Should include a separate provision to include an education component/include educational funding in the Ordinance language