

Minutes – Subcommittee Foodware
July 10, 2017

Attendees from the Public:

Martin Bourque
Miriam Gordon
Scott Blossom
Peter Schultz Allen
Max Welscher
Samantha Sommer
Sandra Curtis

Preliminary Items (20 minutes)

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Agenda
4. Announcements from Commissioners

This was a co-meeting between the Foodware Subcommittee and the Zero Waste Berkeley Committee meeting, subcommittee: Business Outreach. Zero Waste Berkeley's other subcommittees are:

- Legislative Subcommittee
- Community Engagement Subcommittee
- Business Outreach Subcommittee

6. Review referral from City Council: A Ban on the Use of Plastic Straws in Berkeley.

- Laudable idea, but there are many food items that are littering city streets. More in favor of more holistic approach.
- Thing to worry about might be preemption. There are a number of organizations trying to pass legislation at state level to preempt local action.
- Would be great to have prominent, local small business come out in favor of the broader program to combat potential chamber of commerce that might try to speak for all business.

Who would be our opposition?

- California Restaurant Association, includes all major fast food chains (so get all fast food chains in Berkeley)
- Grocers' Association
- Chamber of Commerce

If we are going to target straws, the financial cost savings might not be the right approach. Straws are not the sexiest product to eliminate. \$ and weight savings aren't much.

This is a longer term project in the context of reduction of foodware.

7. Determine the questions that need to be answered to enable the Subcommittee to provide recommendations regarding plastic straws/single-use disposables to the Zero Waste Commission.

1. How do we measure success?

- litter
- cost reduction of business
- reduction of landfill
- reduction of all waste stream? plastics?

2. How would an ordinance be enforced?

3. Can the city require business to take \$ for disposables? Account administered by the city for funding for total reusable system?

Can we have a ban on disposables on onsite dining? Can we ban onsite straws.
Do we want to push towards substitution, or rather reducing?

2. Proposed alternatives to what we're hoping to eliminate?

What is recyclable or compostable?

We'd like anything that touches food to go in the compost bin. If it touches food it goes in the green bin, end of story.

Feedback is businesses will do it only if it is a level playing field; universal.
Various foodware options were discussed.

8. Discuss the viability of bioplastics in the compost program.

Thinking of just replacing bioplastics/compostable is an old-school way of thinking about the problem.

Would to get rid of PLA- they mess up recycling, plastics

Key improvement would be to implement a reduction ordinance

9. Discuss strategies for information gathering/outreach to businesses.

- Need to come up with workplan, top-line strategies
- Show videos @ next city council meeting

Next Steps:

- expand survey
 - expand case studies
 - business testimonials (on video) to do outreach
- Question- when do we engage? Who engages? City Staff? Commissioners?
- suggestion to make presentation on next steps
 - campaigns to engage mom & pop stores

Next steps

- Meeting on July 31 at 7pm at Ecology Center