



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, April 26, 2010
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chair David Tam called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:03 PM

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Jensen, Kirkpatrick, Tam, Moos, Bartlett, Blachman (8:25)

Commissioners absent: Kalil, Gomez

Staff: Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager; Ken Etherington - Division Manager

Members of the Public: Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Solid Waste Division staff: Ricky Jackson, Miguel Martinez and John Paulding.

2. Approve Agenda: Kirkpatrick/Moos M/S/C to approve the agenda 5/0/0

3. Comments from the Public: Solid waste worker Ricky Jackson suggested that the City consider taking over all commercial waste collections. Martin Bourque reported on the Ecology Center's 40th anniversary.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: Chair Tam welcomed and introduced Ben Bartlett to the Commission.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2010: Jensen/Kirkpatrick M/S/C to approve the minutes. Approved 5/0/0

6. Budget Balancing Plan Update: Etherington reported that some of the recommendations on the Refuse Fund Proposed Balancing Options worksheet have been changed:

- 1) Reducing the frequency of Clean Cities Program street sweeping.
- 2) Reducing the number of holidays that the Transfer Station will be closed from the originally proposed 8 to 2; the day after Thanksgiving and the day after Christmas.
- 3) There was discussion about the elimination of Division office staff positions. While these positions are not directly responsible for any diversion programs, they are essential for providing basic refuse and recycling support services and communicating with the crews doing the work.
- 4) Planning to eliminate 2 tractor trailer positions due to reduced tonnage.
- 5) Reduce residential position eliminations to 4
- 6) Reduce commercial position eliminations to 2
- 7) Single operator, fully automated trucks remain as "evaluate feasibility". There was discussion of crowded curb areas, benefits of semi-automated collection, choosing different trucks for different areas, Ecology center route coordination and day changes.
- 8) The plan to eliminate Solid Waste Supervisors was discussed regarding how many drivers and customers are handled by each.

9) Bourque stated that the term Regulatory Fee is misleading and that it should clearly identify all of the services that it covers.

Tam moved to recommend renaming the Refuse Fund to the Refuse, Recycling and Street Cleaning Fund. And that we adopt a regulatory fee high enough to support all of our diversion plans including the rebuild of the Transfer Station. The Commission determined that they needed more information and clarification before voting.

The Commission then passed the following resolution: The Zero Waste Commission recommends investigating the possibility of taking over all commercial collections in the city in order to create greater route efficiency, increase revenue, and to be consistent with our dual stream recycling policy. **M/S/C Blachman/Bartlett 6/0/0**

Chair Tam requested to extend meeting 15 minutes: Jensen/Kirkpatrick M/S/C 6/0/0

The Zero Waste Commission recommends developing a comprehensive re-evaluation of the rate structure that would address commercial and residential recycling, street sweeping, the transfer station rebuild and all other services. **M/S/C Blachman/Tam 6/0/0**

Commission Input Request – Anti-Poaching Strategy: In response to Councilmember Moore’s request for Commission input on poaching, a subcommittee was formed to discuss current regulations and enforcement issues. A member of the BPD could be invited to the subcommittee or 5/24 Commission meeting as well. The goal is clear policy direction from Council.

Chair Tam requested to extend meeting 10 minutes: Blachman/Tam M/S/C 5/0/0

A budget subcommittee was formed to plan a response to Council on the Refuse Fund Proposed Balancing Options. Kirkpatrick to Chair with Jensen to assist.

Expanding Plastics Recycling In Berkeley: Schneider handed out a memo and reported on the possibility of adding additional plastics to our recycling programs ideally during the residential cart rollout. Overseas markets do exist and there is enough value to this material to pay for transportation. The issue will require additional research as confirming end use will be a challenge. Bourque asked that we consider all the facts and unknowns before making any determinations.

7. **Division Update:** Deferred due to time constraints

8. **Adjourn:** Tam/Kirkpatrick to Adjourn at 9:37 PM M/S/C 5/0/0