Meeting Notes

SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
November 7th, 2012
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 5965
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Chair: Julie Pond
Co-Vice Chairs: Katie Kennedy, Wendy Walker
Secretary: Katherine Salinas

Present: Dan Corum, Signe Gilson, Katie Kennedy, Joseph Ringold, Katherine Salinas, Rob Stephenson
Absent: Neil Parry, Carl Pierce, Julie Pond, Wendy Walker
Staff: Vicky Beaumont, Linda Rogers, Sheryl Shapiro, Christie Baumel, Office of Sustainability
Guests: Elizabeth Burnett, UW Student

5:03 pm Call to Order

1. Regular Business, Katie Kennedy, Co-Vice Chair
   a. Meeting notes approved – October 3, 2012
   b. Outstanding to-do’s
      • Secure medicine return letter – Julie Pond drafted a letter; was sent to SWAC members for comment. Board of Health meeting delayed. Katie K will check with Julie on current status of letter. CDWAC has indicated interest in collaborating on this issue.
   c. Chair report

2. Membership  Sheryl Shapiro, CAC advisor
   • Sheryl presented an update on member expiring terms. Applications for extensions should be submitted to her soon.
   • Discussed items for consideration for 2013, including meeting time, how to support members, how to keep memberships strong and growing.

3. Climate Action Plan  Christie Baumel, Office of Sustainability
   • Christie presented an overview of last two years activities since City Council made this a priority item
   • Goal is for Seattle to be carbon neutral by 2050
   • Sub-committees were formed to discuss and identify what needs to be done to reach this goal; the SWAC and some SPU staff were involved in the sub-committee addressing solid wastes.
   • The Solid Waste Plan was already addressing much of what was identified, and the committee recommendations were in close alignment. See Recommendations relating to Recycling and Composting, Source Reduction and Product Stewardship, and Collection, Processing, and Disposal
● Next steps: Technical Advisory Groups made recommendations; the Mayor appointed a green ribbon commission who reviewed the recommendations with a broader community lens.
● Broad based community meetings will be held for feedback to staff. Staff will draft for publication the report, due out January 10, 2013. There will be five weeks of community comment, then City Council will make a decision in March 2013
● Additional suggestions which came out of the green ribbon review included bio-digestion of compostables
● Major challenge will be to find funding mechanisms to realize goals, and recognize the importance of this challenge
● Discussion and questions:
  ○ Who will implement the recommendations?
  ○ Who will handle the other topic areas other than solid waste?
  ○ Approximately two years ago, Councilman O’Brien held a carbon neutral forum; what happened to the information from that event?
  ○ Will the Bio-digestion be part of how to recycle organics?
  ○ These recommendations are in close alignment with the Solid Waste Plan. Are the recommendations for other items, such as transportation, in alignment with other plans?
  ○ Who is responsible for enacting plans back to departments?
  ○ Why was the plan taken only to 2020-2022, when the goal for carbon neutrality to be 2050?
● There will be a launch event in January; the SWAC will receive an invitation
● SWAC offered to assist with the stakeholder and public comment issues when these are being done.

4. One Less Truck  Katherine Salinas, sub-committee member
● Initial survey of the Every Other Week/One Less Truck pilot project has not come back with high customer satisfaction.
● Were high remarks regarding communication efforts
● If alternatives were offered for especially bothersome wastes, such as disposable diapers, this would make this more palatable for at-home businesses, such as daycares and adult home care centers
● Issue identified: non-English speaking communities – low response received from mail-in surveys. Need to gain response in different manner.
● Questions included:
  ○ Was there any information received from specific neighborhoods?

5. Outreach  Katie Kennedy, Co-Chair
Outreach discussion initiated in October continued. Questions discussed during this time included:
● Do SWAC members want to attend community meetings? Spend time and energy? Does a sub-committee need to be formed to address these issues?
● What is the SWAC role? To interface with the community?
What other types of involvement might the SWAC take on, such as Op-Ed pieces, etc.; on-line presence, social media
Are other CAC’s interested? Possibly have a cross-CAC sub-committee to address various aspects of outreach?
Brainstorm aspects including education, what others in the community think?
May already have connections to different neighborhoods; have SWAC as a resource.
Adopt-a-neighborhood?
How many neighborhoods exist?
What are needs? What are gaps? Should SWAC be doing more?
Is there interest by the group

**Action:** develop a list of areas in which SWAC could be involved. Send suggestions to Sheryl Shapiro. May tie into 2013 work plan. Sheryl will let SWAC know if a cross-committee outreach group is formed.

   Vicky led discussion on potential topics for the 2013 SWAC Work Plan. SPU is presently looking at this; Vicky will bring back SPU’s input for these. Items included:
   - EOW/One Less Truck – gathering data until end of December; 2013 process?
   - Recycle Action Plan start for 2014
   - Solid Waste Plan update
   - Legislative items such as ban on organics for single family residences; demolition debris
     - What kind of outreach is being done to reach small contractors, or contractors doing infrequent business in Seattle?
   - New South Transfer Station may be opening in February
   - North Transfer Station rebuild process to ramp up in 2013
   - What Product Stewardship items are on the horizon?
   - **Action:** Vicky will bring SPU’s 2013 plan to next meeting to inform SWAC’s discussion on 2013 Work Plan

7. **Tours**, Katie Salinas, Secretary
   Discussion was held regarding having potential tours before end of year. Limited suggestions of locations. Possibly hold off until 2013. Tours will be a topic at the next meeting.

**Wrap Up:**

8. **Review:** Katie Kennedy, Co-Vice Chair
   a) **Recommendations**
   b) **Action Items:**
      - Outreach suggestions to be sent to Sheryl Shapiro.

9. **Preliminary agenda for next meeting**
   - Work planning
   - Officer Elections
   - Potential Tours
10. Possible future agenda items
   • Update on Organics Contract.

6:25 PM - Meeting adjourned