



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

June 4, 2014 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 5965
5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Wendy Walker & Heather Levy

Secretary: Aaron Lawhead

Present: Heather Levy, Wendy Walker, Aaron Lawhead, David Della, Katie Kennedy, Erika Melroy, Joseph Ringold, Stephanie Schwenger, Stacie Singleton, Chris Toman

Absent: Dan Corum; Katie Salinas

Guests:

Staff: Dick Lilly, Vicky Beaumont, Linda Rogers, Sheryl Shapiro, Tim Croll

5:31 pm Call to Order

1. Regular Business –Heather Levy, Co-Chair

- Meeting notes approved – May 7, 2014
- Report on outstanding items from May – none
- Chair report – none

2. Recycling Report and SWAC Action – Vicky Beaumont

- Report is due to City Council by July 1st
- Need to make plan for quick response
- Discussed draft data graphs
- Disposed tons slightly up
- Started tracking disposed tons reduction goal in 2007
- Disposed tons – in 2007 resolution: disposed tons need to go down 1% per year over 5 years. (disposed = landfill)
- Single Family/Multi-Family (SF/MF) performance – plateau in 2012/13 for SF
 - MF down about 1%
- Self-haul – recycle performance continued declining since 2007
- Trips: how tabulated, etc
 - How handle mixed loads – as garbage
 - Organic trips declined since 2011 – generally landscapers
 - Recycling trips – down
- Tons – disposed out of station headed for landfill
 - Recycled tons up
 - Organics down compared to prior year
 - Since 2007 organics down 31%
 - Recycled tons down 59%
- How is this reduction viewed by the utility?
- Commercial and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris – don't have numbers yet
- How expect to respond when send out report for comments
 - Requested sample of last couple years letters – send to Aaron Lawhead

- Timeline – depends on when Vicki gets numbers – may be next week
- Need SWAC letter to Vicki by June 25th
 - Mechanics – send to Dick – puts in electronic signatures then goes Vicky
- SPU Recommendations for next recycling steps
 - Self-hauling recycling
 - Starting pilot this month C&D debris dumped and sorted to Republic Services
 - Pick things off floor that can be recovered – weigh to see what return is and costs
 - Do pilot through year; reevaluate in 2015
- Food waste disposal ban

3. Food Waste Ban – Tim Croll, Solid Waste Director

- Review focus group findings
 - Review graphs – alternative policy – require food waste collection
 - Over 5 days, did 35-40 business per day – all had food waste collection
 - Still 45% compostable paper and food waste
 - So does not make sense to have a service requirement
- PRR handout = summary page # 11 –
 - 2 residence focus group – SF & MF groups
 - Page 12 – consequences
 - Ed alone not sufficient
 - Reminders not sufficient
 - 50c fine too low
 - \$5 would be noticeable
 - If had to pull out all the food would be incentive
- Did talk about education period
- Compostable - - exec summary pg 1
 - Business focus groups - 2 food service business; 2 non-food service businesses
 1. Most believed food recycling already required by Seattle
 2. Tenants respond when required to compost; landlords favored enforcement
 3. Small food business felt just another issue for them
 4. Non-food business in favor
- Review additional breakdown of survey data
 - Survey data – support new food waste requirement
 - SPU telephone survey of 600 random selected adult conducted week of 6/2/14 – conducted in evening
 - 76% supported/11% opposed – ratio of 7:1
 - How many under various categories?
 - Higher representation than on-line survey
 - Overall Consistent with other survey

4. Food Waste Bans in Other Cities - Stacie Singleton

- Item postponed until next meeting

5. Food Packaging Ordinance Amendments and Existing Food Waste Collection Accounts – Dick Lilly, Policy Liaison

See “Summary of Packaging Program Changes” memo handout

- Proposed changes of food packaging regulations
- Suggested changes underlined text
- Language to be more specific with businesses at POS and disposal
- Bag ordinance – will limit colors of polyethylene bags, no green or brown
- Meat trays – some compostable meat trays are still white – require to use brown ones
- Cannot regulate items packaged outside the city, not packaged on-site
 - Concern about the confusion –
 - Many ways contaminants leak into system
 - Cannot regulate everything
 - Have to get what we can get
 - Have discretion in enforcement; do not have discretion in changing the law
- Questions:
 - Are there other cities which use this coloring convention? Any effort for consistencies? Generally none
 - Is Cedar Grove doing anything to help reduce contamination rates? Are doing more sorting than have ever done before
 - Change of state law limiting contaminants resulting in price increase request by Cedar Grove

6. Food Waste Ban SWAC Action/s– Discussion by All

- How do want to engage on topic?
- What’s the timing?
 - Long run – submit ordinance to city council on this
 - When goes to CC, SPU hopes for letters of support
 - Mid-term – identify next steps in recycling – in general SWAC supports with not a lot of detail
 - Talking about issues with CC 9:00 AM Monday, 6/9
 - Layout –yellow = how SPU is leaning
 - Italicized = organizations spoken to who support position
 - General consensus – general support, questions about how to move ahead and implement
 - SPU has made strong case for exploring composting at home. Area fruitful for future consideration
 - Good choices for CC – support options to consider
 - Limitation is SWACs readiness – support some kind of requirement; say more when have more details
- Food Service Ware
 - Less confusing to have rule be – more aggressive – what is costing difference?
 - Question as to where cups are really recyclable or compostable
 - Cup – mixed paper - % of fiber recovery even for coated papers

- Lids compostable – some but not all; plastic lids recyclable
- Favor of reducing customer confusion
- Organics in landfill has potential of producing methane gas
- At min – support intermediate; prefer aggressive actions
- Composting Requirement
 - Intermediate – have requirement
- Sectors covered
 - Aggressive – all sector Organic trips declined since 2011 – generally landscapers
 - Recycling trips
- Compliance threshold –
 - Moderate requirement
- Consequences for non-complying SF –
 - First 6 months tag only for customer education
 - Aggressive – More to aggressive side, not more than \$5 w/2 appeals
- Consequences for non-complying apt/condo/business
 - MF does have service requirement
 - Businesses do not have service requirement (if not food service)
 - Fees/warnings same as for recycling
 - Intermediate requirement – consistent with align w/recycling
- Composting requirement – materials covered?
 - Straddle moderate & intermediate
 - Want people to be comfortable putting packaging in garbage; less contamination than if they feel they always had to put it in compost
- Exemptions –
 - Intermediate requirement
 - City set example for multiple cans for garbage/recyclables/compostables
 - Look further into publically accessible cans
- Implementation timeline
 - Intermediate requirement
- Implementation assistance outreach
 - Intermediate requirement

7. Strategic Business Plan (SBP) Programmatic Reductions Affecting Solid Waste – Dick Lilly

- 2015 Draft program allocation for SBP review on May 6
- Solid Waste SBP reductions available for review – handout only

8. Strategic Business Plan (SBP) – Sheryl Shapiro

Questions or comments arising from info packet sent Thursday in response to questions following Nancy Ahern's presentation.

- Timeline for responses or questions on Programmatic Reductions or Action Plans to Sheryl
- Draft Plan sent out today; has not yet been posted externally
- Due to the fast track to the Mayor's Office and quick turnaround to the City Council by the end of June, there will not be an opportunity at this time to submit questions/comments
- June 25th all CACs are invited to participate in a pilot "beta" testing of the public outreach sessions for the Strategic Business Plan that will occur in July
- Members from the Immigrant and Refugee Commissions are also invited to attend
- Cedar River Watershed field trip information: field offered in response to request by community members and offered as thank you for assisting with outreach: Saturday, June 28
- Link on SPU for SBP information

9. Proposed meeting with Council Member Sally Bagshaw – Aaron Lawhead

- Get SWAC input on having attend SWAC meeting, or visit with her as group or individually
- Good idea

10. July meeting – vacations and other conflicts

- Strategic Business Plan (SBP) Public Outreach – 7/17, 6-8 at North Seattle Community College; 7/19 12-2 at El Centro De la Raza; 7/22 6-8 at Youngstown Cultural Center (Delridge); 7/26 6-8 at 2100 Building
- SBP Outreach pilot session – June 25th
- Comment on ordinance in July – work on it by email – food waste ban; packaging ordinance
- Cancel July meeting – participate in outreach sessions as able

11. Discussion items:

- Field trips – table to next meeting

Wrap Up:

12. Action items -

- Recycling report cover letter due by June 25th to Vicky

13. Preliminary agenda for next meeting:

- Draft letter on ordinance support
- Further SBP discussion
- Food waste bans in other cities

July 2nd meeting cancelled

Next meeting is August 6 2014 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

7:30 PM - Meeting adjourned