



Chair: Julie Pond

Co-Vice Chairs: Katie Kennedy, Wendy Walker

Secretary: Katherine Salinas

In attendance: Katie Kennedy, Co-Chair; Dan Corum; Signe Gilson; Carl Pierce; Katie Salinas; Rob Stephenson; Wendy Walker

Absent: Julie Pond, Chair

Staff: Ray Hoffman, SPU Director; Vicky Beaumont; Linda Rogers; Jennifer Robertson; Carl Woestwin, Dick Lilly, Veronica Fincher

Guests: Bill Lasby, KC Public Health; Kaylan Gravbrot, prospective member

5:10 pm Call to Order

Administration:

1. Chair Report:

- Julie will be meeting with Mayor McGinn on May 30th; will be asking the same questions as posed to Councilwoman Godden
- March 2012 minutes approved
- **March action items:**
 - Every Other Week (EOW) draft letter revisions completed
 - EOW sub-committee will continue to meet with Carl Woestwin
 - Revised Rates recommendation letter completed
 - 2012 work plan was finalized and sent to members

Monthly Topics:

2. Seattle Public Utilities Message From Director – Briefing

- Ray Hoffman, SPU Director briefed SWAC on current issues and provided an overview and status update on SPU's actions to tighten internal controls. SPU will keep the Committee updated about the progress of our work.

3. Every Other Week (EOW) Garbage Pick-Up – Briefing & Discussion

Carl Woestwin, SPU Project Manager, discussed the SWAC's feedback on the draft letter to potential pilot participants. Points made included:

- EOW will reduce annual costs by approximately \$6.4 million. SPU currently expends approximately \$150 million annually in garbage pickup costs.
- Rates will not go up as fast.
- There will be assistance for low income families.
- Length of letter was significantly reduced from prior version.
- Times article was in favor of EOW pickup; left a lot of holes, but was accurate in what was stated.

Questions raised included:

- What rates will be used in the pilot?

- What would rates be if pilot is implemented Citywide?
- Will recycling and organics pickup schedules remain the same?
- Is letter going to be revised to reflect new logo?
- Will the proposed guidance document be available to the public? Public Health would like an opportunity to review this document.
- How did the Council briefing seem to go?
- **Recommendation:** Emphasize program included recycle and organics in full package; changes number of truck runs per month from 10 to 8 – thus the 20% reduction.
- **Action:** Send further comments to Katie Kennedy by April 9th. She will consolidate these and send to Vicky Beaumont for presenting to Carl Woestwin. He needs the information in time to consider and include in letter which will go to printer by April 15th.

4. Waste Prevention Update – Briefing and Discussion

Dick Lilly, SPU Waste Prevention Manager, and Veronica Fincher briefed the SWAC on current and planned activities in the areas of:

- **Yellow pages and junk mail opt out**
 - Received approximately 20% saturation; target was 7%
 - This equates to 74,163 phone book accounts for residents and businesses
 - 409,279 opt-outs for phone books
 - Approximately 375 tons of paper saved
 - There are 11,591 junk mail accounts for residents and businesses
 - Of these, 87,061 signed up for junk mail opt-out

The phone books and junk mail opt-out programs have been a great success with higher saturation than expected. When saturation rates were analyzed by zip code, opt-outs ranged from 7% to 31%. The discrepancy appears to correlate with the following:

- **Income:** lower income = lower saturation
- **Race/ethnicity:** more people of color and Hispanic/Latino = lower saturation
- **Businesses:** higher percent of businesses = lower saturation

Questions raised included:

- Can vendors be fined for not complying with the opt-outs?
- Have the opt-outs resulted in reduction of number of phone book deliveries?
- **Plastic Bag ban** – goes into effect July 1, 2012; flyer was mailed to 8,000 businesses. There will be a media blitz in May/June. Will be distributed in at least the 7 major languages in Seattle, but considering all 14 languages. Questions raised included:
 - Is there any strategy to verify compliance?
 - Do customers pay \$.05 for 2.5mil bags?
 - How is recycling handled if contaminated with food?
- **Waste Prevention budget** – Dick Lilly reviewed the 2012 budget items, identifying the key areas which remained funded in 2012, and those projects identified with no funding.
 - **Recommendation:** emphasize efforts for school composting education; reaches great target audience of children who take home the information and encourage parental participation on the home front.

5. Solid Waste Plan – Briefing and Discussion

Vicky Beaumont advised the SWAC that the latest draft went to the printer April 4th. Key changes between the two drafts included:

- Every other week garbage collection for single family removed as a recommendation, changed to “consider”

- Electronics disposal – keeping current with evolving standards
- Backyard compost and grass clippings – more emphasis on
- Highlighting job creation potential from product stewardship
- Collection - awareness of additional curbside services
- Process and disposal – RFP process for composting services
- Educate to reduce contamination in organics

6. UW Trash-In Event - postponed as presenter was not present

7. Tour of New South Transfer Station - Discussion

The SWAC decided to tour the facility after it opens, possibly also incorporating other sites. More discussion to take place at May meeting.

8. July SWAC Meeting - Discussion

The July meeting regular schedule falls on the July 4th holiday.

- The SWAC decided to cancel the meeting, but to try to schedule the new South Transfer Station tour for this month.
- Bill Lasby of King County Public Health suggested incorporating a visit to the new medical waste handling facility which has been certified by Public Health.
- More discussion to follow in May.

7. Wrap Up

Action Items:

- Send feedback on EOW draft letter to Katie Kennedy by April 9th; she will compile comments, and forward to Carl Woestwin
- EOW sub-committee will coordinate with Carl to schedule more meetings
- Send recommendations for facilities to visit in July to Katherine Salinas; she will compile for further discussion at the May meeting

Recommendations

- Compost education outreach at schools

Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting – May 2, 2012, Room SMT 5965

- Approve April 2012 minutes
- Sub-committees updates – Climate Action Plan, EOW. Rates work is done.

6:55 PM - Meeting adjourned