

Meeting Notes



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

September 5th, 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: Julie Pond, Katie Kennedy, Dan Corum, Carl Pierce, Rob Stephenson

Absent: Signe Gilson, Katherine Salinas, Wendy Walker

Staff: Tim Croll, Jennifer Woods

Guests: None

5:09 pm Call to Order

Administration:

1. Regular Business: Julie Pond, Chair

- a. August meeting notes approved.
- b. Chair report – None.

Monthly Topics:

2. Medicine Return: Tim Croll, Solid Waste Division Director

- Work has been under way with the (King County) Board of Health to establish a medicine return system (producer paid). Agreement appears close. The SWAC will hear about this work, what the successful result would be, and how the SWAC can lend support for a successful outcome.
- The intended outcome is a program that is convenient, consistent and widespread. The area the program would cover includes Seattle and unincorporated King County, but the program has the ability to expand beyond this area. This is a product stewardship policy from the Board of Health where the industry is to provide a location to drop off and dispose of unused and expired medicine; different disposal requirements would exist for different types of medication, i.e. controlled substances.
- Stakeholders, including SWAC, have been asked to provide feedback. There will be a public hearing for this policy on October 26, 2012.
- **ACTION ITEM: Julie to organize SWAC's comments regarding the policy. She will be in contact with members to collect additional comments and finalize the comment letter.**

3. Long Term Solid Waste Planning and Financing: Julie Pond, Chair and Rob Stephenson, Member

- Discuss the comments Rob made about long term planning and financing, that came up regarding the solid waste rate proposal.
- Questions the discussion focused on:
 - How is SPU impacted through their policy to reduce solid waste?
 - How does the business model carry out reduced garbage and increased recycling and composting? Does less garbage mean less revenue?
- **ACTION ITEM: SWAC to follow up with staff for more insight into the discussion questions, perhaps as related to the One Less Truck pilot.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Katie K. to send out alternative rates structure information completed by a third party.**

4. SWAC and the City Council: Julie Pond, Chair

- Debrief how the latest process went with the rate proposal and discuss protocol.
- Julie discussed the comment letter submitted to the LUC (Libraries, Utilities and Seattle Center Committee) as they proposed reductions and the need to limit the reductions from important programs.

5. One Less Truck (Every Other Week): Julie Pond, Chair

- Julie provided updates from the subcommittee. The report now has the initial data collected on the pilot. The report included a synopsis of the data, which included, some customers requesting larger cans and the pilot has at the present received more positive feedback than negative.
- Concerns brought about by the data include public awareness, an increase of trash capacity and stipend redemption. Staff is preparing to conduct door-to-door outreach in the Dunlap neighborhood. The customer survey is also intended to help collect any negative feedback about the pilot. The data thus far seems positive, but more qualitative data and details are needed to make a full assessment of the pilot.

6. Tours Redux: Katie Salinas, Secretary

- Facility tour planning status and next steps for setting up. This agenda item has been postponed until next meeting.

7. Disposed Tons: Julie Pond, Chair

- Review the numbers through July.
- Some questions from members included:
 - Why are disposed tons going down? Is it related to the economy?
 - The disposed tons reported for May seems like an outlier, why?
 - Is recycling reported like disposed tons?
- **ACTION ITEM: SWAC to follow up with staff for more insight into the discussion questions.**

8. Solid Waste Plan Resolution to Adopt: Julie Pond, Chair

- We are getting bumped from our September 18th date at City Council. We should be able to get in late November or December. Vicky will notify members of the new date. It would be great for a representative for SWAC to come and comment.
- SWAC has no comments about the plan at this time, though SWAC support for the plan was acknowledged.

Wrap Up:

9. Review: Julie Pond, Chair

a) Recommendations

b) Action Items:

- Julie to organize SWAC's comments regarding the policy. She will be in contact with members to collect additional comments and finalize the comment letter.
- SWAC to follow up with staff for more insight into the discussion questions for agenda items 3. (Long Term Solid Waste Planning and Financing) and 7. (Disposed Tons).
- Katie K. to send out alternative rates structure information completed by a third party.

10. Preliminary agenda for next meeting

11. Possible future agenda items

- Council protocol - for future SWAC representations at Committee or Council meetings.

6:49 PM - Meeting adjourned