



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

November 7, 2018 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 4901
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Chair: Holly Griffith
Secretary: Adam Maurer

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Quinn Apuzzo	On leave	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Holly Griffith	Y	Susan Fife-Ferris	Division Director, SPU Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
James Subocz	N	Dave Hare	Planning Strategic Advisor, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management
Alan Garvey	P	Michael Davis	Division Director, Environmental Justice and Service Equity
Amelia Fujikawa	N		
Adam Maurer	Y	Guests	Affiliation
Rachtha Dahn	Y	Heather Trim	Guest
Alessandra Pistoia	P	Christian Hoogerheyde	Guest
Dirk Wassink	Y	Nico Onoda-McGuire	Guest
		Heather Levy	Cascadia Consulting Group
		Jessica Branon Zwick	Cascadia Consulting Group

1. Regular Business

SWAC Chair, Holly Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from September were approved.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

Susan Fife-Ferris, Division Director, Solid Waste Planning and Program Management & SWAC/Solid Waste LOB Liaison, Sego Jackson, provided a few Solid Waste Line of Business and legislative updates.

- **Food Rescue Innovation Lab:** The event took place today and involved a range of 50-55 individuals from the supply chain to the demand end of food insecurity. We will be sharing more about the event once we have the meeting notes. Jay Manning, former Chief of Staff for Christine Gregoire, was present, who is working with SPU on the Pacific Coast Collaborative on food waste. Maketa Wilborn was the visual notetaker and facilitator for the meeting. There will be a follow-up event.
- **10/30/18 Solid Waste Facilities Tour:** This is the first tour for non-Solid Waste SPU staff of a series of tours. The group visited Cedar Grove Composting Facility, Cedar Hills Landfill, the North

Transfer Station, and Republic Service Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The goal is two tours per year; SWAC may be invited at a future date.

- **Organics Processing Services Contracts RFP:** Posted and expecting proposals back early 2019. Currently contracts are with LENZ and Cedar Grove.
- **Responsible Recycling Task Force (RRTF).** The RRTF has been meeting regularly to target impacts from the China Blue Sky Initiative. Recommendations are currently being developed; they anticipate them being ready early next year.
- **2019 SPU Solid Waste Staff / Division Retreat;** The retreat was an opportunity to look at 2019 work plans and review how work outcomes align with SPU's community-centered goals and Mayoral priorities.
- **America Recycles Day.** Four outreach events on 11/14 and 11/15. Staff will be at grocery stores, talking about recycling, composting and how to reduce waste. They will also be answering questions about disposal, and gathering pledges to compost and recycle more. Waste Management, Recology and Tilth will be supporting the events:
 - **November 13, ~9-4PM**
 - Grocery Outlet, Crown Hill
 - Safeway, Rainier Beach
 - **November 14, ~9-4PM**
 - Safeway, Jefferson Square in West Seattle
 - Grocery Outlet, Central District
- **Legislation Updates:** This will be an active session; Segó to provide more in-depth briefings as needed.

3. Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan (SWCP) Update

Heather Levy with Cascadia Consulting Group, opened the topic. She explained that the purpose of today's meeting was to begin plugging into the SWCP and prioritize topics within the Update that will inform an engaging SWAC meeting in December.

The SWCP team is currently crafting the public involvement plan now, and actively planning a series of stakeholder discovery sessions. They have not yet defined tactics for each group of stakeholders, interviews may very well be one of those tactics.

Jessica Brumswick, also with Cascadia Consulting Group, is co-leading the process. Brumswick will be managing the technical track of the Update, which includes planning, data gathering, analysis, modeling and writing of the update. Brumswick reviewed the list of topics, and members responded to an electronic survey so that the results could be reviewed live. Members that called in were also able to participate, and the link was sent to members not present.

Survey Results (topics with the most votes):

1. **Waste Prevention.** A CAC member added that they are specifically interested in how resources at SPU are being allocated towards waste prevention.
2. **Metrics.**
3. **Construction and Demolition.** A CAC member added that they are specifically interested in what kinds of resources (budget and staff) are being allocated at SPU towards construction and demolition. And, if it is a priority, how it is showing up in the SWCP.

4. **Education / Outreach**
5. **Product stewardship and product takeback**

Levy also engaged members in *how* they'd like to be engaged in the above topics at the December SWAC meeting. "What does a great session in December look like to you?"

- **A SWAC member** shared that they felt SWAC has had success with breakout sessions mixed with larger group discussions.
- **A SWAC member** asked Levy and the SWCP team: What are you looking to get out of SWAC? What kind of feedback are you looking for? SWCP consultants responded that it's an opportunity to hear what matters most to SWAC members. Given the geographic diversity and range of interests of SWAC members, the SWCP team is hoping they can represent the interests across the City. Staff added that it might be helpful if SWAC members read areas of the current plan that are of interest to them, and come prepared in December to discuss those areas. **SWCP consultants said they would re-share the survey document**, which contained links to SWCP chapters that may be of interest.

4. The State of Textile Recycling: Report out

Heather Trim with Zero Waste Washington reported out on The State of Textile Recycling, a Washington State Recycling Association's Washington Recycles Every Day (WRED) event that was cosponsored by Zero Waste Washington. Trim gave a high-level overview of select presentations from the event, which focused on the state of the international textile industry. The goal, she explained, was to have designers talking to those in the Solid Waste field, to discuss and begin brainstorming how to cut textile waste and increase textile recycling. Trim will be putting up the PowerPoint with documents on the Zero Waste Washington Website.

- **A SWAC Member** asked if vendors participating in Threadcycle have capacity to take more material than they are currently accepting? Trim responded that yes, they do. The issue is lack of awareness of this program, not capacity.
- **A SWAC Member** said they were overwhelmed by the number of different paths for textile recycling. They asked how to simplify the process for consumers to eliminate textiles, and then for vendors to distribute, like at a transfer station. Trim responded that if we really want to impact textile waste, we need to influence consumers to buy less. That it's a cultural shift. Most of the methods [from the PowerPoint] shift the mentality but will not change the landscape.
- **A SWAC Member** asked if you can you put textiles in the recycling bin. Trim responded no, but you can take it to the North Transfer Station reuse corner. And most neighborhoods have a Goodwill drop-off.
- **A SWAC Member** shared about their experiences with clothing swaps, and online consignment such as Thread-Up. Trim responded that clothing swaps could be a sustainable option.
- **A guest** added that the whole paradigm/culture shift is overwhelming for those not working in policy. But the circular economy is gaining traction; and the more we can connect these efforts into one the better.

5. 2018 SWAC Reflection

CAC Program Coordinator, Natasha Walker, led SWAC members through a reflection of 2018 meeting topics and discussions. SWAC members were encouraged to share highlights and notable topics:

- **A SWAC Member** shared that the energy around the China National Sword was “shocking to their system,” and they found it fascinating to see how SPU’s policy staff were wrestling with it and how SWAC was engaging in those discussions. They said it felt real, and compelling to be a part of. Another SWAC member added that they enjoyed how the updates were “infused into the meetings” and that the updates were valuable. Another SWAC member shared that they “appreciated how SPU handled the China National Sword discussion, reassuring members that it would be ok.” “I’m coming from a ratepayer perspective, and am concerned about how this might impact me financially.”
- **A SWAC Member** shared that they have enjoyed the “honest, on the ground updates. The day-to-day unpredictable experience of SPU staff has been fascinating.”
- **A SWAC Member** asked how much China Blue Skies is driving what SPU does. Staff responded that the Solid Waste LOB has a budget and a workplan, but when things like this happen, SPU discusses how they are focusing resources and budget. They also spoke to the impact on the legislative stream, noting that bills that previously did not have traction may have support now.
- **A SWAC member** shared that every year they receive updates from Solid Waste Program staff, such as Socorro or Veronica, but that it would be great to not just get updates, but have an ask attached to them. Where are these Programs headed? What input would they like to see? They said they would like to see more Program materials tested on them.
- **A SWAC member** really liked following the straw ban and the innovation around it. They noted it had good presentations and they enjoyed their level of involvement.
- **A SWAC member** enjoyed the construction and demolition update in October, since it is not an arena they are familiar with.
- **A SWAC member** liked hearing about the Food Rescue grant program; They specifically enjoyed hearing about all the different companies and the different projects that applied.
- **A guest** shared that they had attended several SWAC meetings and felt that while they were great informational sessions, sometimes they felt like SWAC was the single channel of outreach for SPU and “were expected to be ambassadors”. The guest was interested in a meeting about the outreach that SPU is doing, showcasing that breadth of their work. Staff responded that as part of the Solid Waste Orientation (101) discussion in early 2018, SWAC members requested a Part II to that discussion that would have more detail on how SPU’s Solid Waste LOB is organized, and its programs. SWAC members confirmed their interest in this.
- **A SWAC member** shared that they felt the meetings had changed drastically to more discussion and less talking heads after feedback at an officers meeting. They hoped that could continue, and noted that the 1,2,4,6 exercises seem to help people digest the information for responding.
- **A SWAC member** suggested that there be regular exercises so SWAC members can prioritize what focus areas are discussed within a given topic at future meetings, much like what was done during today’s meeting on the SWCP.
- Staff confirmed that SWAC members have enjoyed the variety of guest speakers.

- **A SWAC member** shared that they felt the layering of Race and Social Justice into SWAC’s work has been interesting. They said they were not aware of this work coming into SWAC, and have been very happy to be included in that work.
- **A SWAC member** said they would like to see a mid-year review in 2019. They suggested it become a recurring August agenda item.
- **A SWAC Member** requested a tour of the North Transfer Station (NTS). Staff noted that we had done one in 2017, but could consider one in 2019 though logistics with evening meetings at the NTS can be difficult. They invited SWAC to join when they do their next all-day Solid Waste tour in 2019.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that when they first came onto SWAC, there was a question on how to engage better with different communities. They said they would like to have our meetings in community spaces, and work with those organizations to engage them in the Solid Waste topics.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that they enjoyed following along with policies around waste; straw ban and plastic utensil. They felt the invitation for straw ban party was such a nice way to celebrate something that SPU had done, and “filled me with a lot of pride”. They said they would love to incorporate more Race and Social Justice into every meeting; that there’s an opportunity to see where that layer intersects with everything we talk about. They felt we had only just scratched the surface, and they referenced the idea to compose a list of questions for SWAC to ask themselves during meeting.

6. 10/26/18 All-CAC Meeting Debrief

CAC Program Manager, Sheryl Shapiro, could not be present at this meeting, but asked for the following to be shared: “Upon reflecting on the All-CAC meeting, I realized there is the problem solving / planning aspect to all of this resiliency work, but that there is also the emotional impact of this work that we need to discuss.”

Sheryl wanted CAC members to know that she has resources to work through those feelings if members sense them in themselves or others. Sheryl wanted to acknowledge the feelings and anxieties around these topics may have been risen to the surface for some, and to let members know that she has several books and other resources that could help.

- **A SWAC Member** recalled the climate change topic at a 2017 All-CAC meeting, noting that they were “not sure I was emotionally ready for this topic this year.”
- **A SWAC Member** shared how the framing around earthquake risk (10% chance in the next 50 years) was scary for them to process. They texted a geologist family member about their fears.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that they had the opposite experience, and was amazed that SPU staff were thinking through these risks and potential impacts. Another SWAC member added that there were so many levels of risk to consider, and were impressed by SPU staff’s ability to work on this every day.

CAC Program Coordinator, Natasha Walker, asked if members felt there should be follow-up, and what would that ideally look like?

- **A SWAC Member** had questions related to later processes in the Risk & Resiliency Planning. The presentation was early in the planning process, and therefore conceptual. They were interested

in diving deeper, following each of the risks and understanding what SPU is planning to do, and how the risks will impact specific neighborhoods.

- **A SWAC Member** said that the prioritization exercise was very challenging, but **it would be good to see how the results of that exercise played out.**

7. SWAC Elections – Brief Discussion

Sego Jackson, SWAC Liaison, provided a brief overview of the timeline.

- 11/7/18: SWAC nominations due by midnight tonight.
- 11/8/18: Natasha will email all nominees; responses due 11/12.
- 11/14/18: Sego will begin calling nominated SWAC members to determine their willingness and availability.
- 11/29/18: Statements of interest are due to send in advance of our next meeting.
- 12/5/18: December SWAC meeting vote

8. Around the Table & Community Insights

- **A SWAC Member** shared a shout-out of solidarity for those who supported I-1631.
- **A SWAC member** asked for an update on plastic bag bans statewide. Staff responded that bills will be introduced the first week of January 2019, and is one of the environmental coalition's first priorities.
- **A SWAC member** asked what kind of impacts the midterms may have on Solid Waste policies in the legislature this year. Staff responded that they had not seen a complete analysis of Washington State yet, but anticipate support for addressing a range of issues of interest to SPU.

Adjourned 7:33PM