

Meeting Notes



**SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)**

**April 16th, 2008**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4696**

**5 p.m.-7 p.m.**

*Chair: Carl Pierce*

*Vice Chair: David Ruggiero*

*Secretary: Nicole Riss*

In attendance: Signe Gilson, Theogene Mbabaliye Nicole Riss, Kim Ducote, Mike McComber, Carl Pierce

Guests: none

Staff: Deborah Caul, Leif Anderson, Dick Lilly, Marcia Rutan, Vicky Beaumont

Absent: David Ruggiero, Rita Smith

Call to order.

## **Administration:**

### **Chair Report:**

Debrief of annual CAC event on April 7<sup>th</sup> which Carl and Nicole attended. Need for SWAC members to attend next year was emphasized due to poor turnout. Dog poop issue will not be added to SWAC work plan.

March meeting minutes approved.

## **Monthly Topics:**

### **Rates Process Update:**

Deborah Caul reviewed major rate design decisions which will streamline rates for residential customers. Current residential can rate structure will remain the same to avoid confusion. Higher "heavy" garbage rates will be charged to commercial large generator container customers, like restaurants and supermarkets that have a lot of organics going into the trash instead of to composting, starting in 2010. Residential organics will move to weekly pickup with the addition of a 32 gallon can which customers indicated interest in. "Designated areas" for dumpster free alley service include the downtown core. Dumpster free service will be mandatory in some

areas. They are currently evaluating whose rates will increase and whose will decrease while they continue to put together recommendations.

SWAC recommended simplified user-friendly educational material for residents to explain changes to rates. Deborah indicated that will be included with other information sent to residents.

### **2007 Residential Rate Survey:**

Leif Anderson reviewed highlights of the telephone survey which has been conducted every other year since 1999. It is intended to measure changes through time, steer programs, and guide policies. About 30% of those contacted and eligible chose to take the survey.

SWAC recommended including age of the subject's house with existing data about the type of housing (house, apartment, etc.) to help assess the effect that decreased yard space has on on-site composting.

### **Bags Green Fee and "Styro" Ban Joint Proposal:**

Dick Lilly led discussion about the green fee and ban emphasizing the economics for stores and waste reduction incentives for residents. Fees going to the City will help pay for bags to be distributed to low income households through existing community programs. Dick estimates that as many as 4 free reusable bags could be distributed to each household. The City will be moving toward a ban on all food service plastics that cannot be recycled or composted. Both the fee and the ban would begin Jan 1, 2009 subject to City Council action this June. Seattle PI article, "A Glitch in the Compost Ditch" from April 14<sup>th</sup>, was also discussed

[http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/359085\\_compost15.html](http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/359085_compost15.html)

SWAC agrees to pursue Rita's motion to send a letter of commendation with regard to the proposed bag fee and polystyrene ban. At Vicky's recommendation, the letter will be sent to SPU Director Chuck Clarke and copied to the Mayor and Councilmember Conlin if deemed appropriate.

### **Washington Green Schools:**

Marcia Rutan briefed SWAC on the Washington Green Schools Project which is being funded by a grant from the Department of Ecology. With input from regional experts, this program is designed to provide a framework for schools to pursue resource conservation measures. Five pilot schools are currently participating and their input will be integrated into the existing program.

[www.wagreenschools.org](http://www.wagreenschools.org)

### **Recruitment for SWAC:**

Membership for SWAC is currently 8 people, the minimum for a Community Advisory Committee. To supplement formal SPU recruiting, SWAC members brainstormed ways to encourage new members to join, including business cards and a "stock" email with the new website

[http://www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Management/CitizenAdvisoryCommitees/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Management/CitizenAdvisoryCommitees/index.htm)

## **Wrap Up:**

### **Action Items:**

- ✓ SWAC members are asked to develop ideas for recruitment
- ✓ Rita will draft letter a letter of commendation with regard to the proposed bag fee and polystyrene ban.
- ✓ Per discussion outside of the meeting: SWAC members are asked to review current content on the SWAC website at [http://www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU/Management/CitizenAdvisoryCommitees/SolidWasteAdvisoryCommittee/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU/Management/CitizenAdvisoryCommitees/SolidWasteAdvisoryCommittee/index.htm)

## **Discussion for next month:**

- ◇ Recruitment for SWAC
- ◇ Carl will brief SWAC on Chicago Waste Expo
- ◇ Letter of commendation regarding fee and ban

Meeting adjourned.