



**April 21, 2010**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
Room 4096**

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

**DRAFT**

*Chair: Signe Gilson*

*Vice Chair: David Ruggiero*

*Secretary: Laura Feinstein*

**In attendance:** Signe Gilson, Chair; Laura Feinstein; Mark Gibbs; Todd Johnson; David Ruggiero; Rita Smith; David Traylor

**Absent:** Laura Feinstein; Todd Johnson; George Kukahiko; Carl Pierce

**Staff:** Linda Rogers, Tim Croll, SPU; Sherri Crawford

**Guests:** Bill Lasby, Seattle King County Health; Emily Newcomer, Waste Management

5:06 pm Call to Order

## **Administration:**

### **Chair Report:**

- March 2010 minutes approved
- **Attendance:** Eric Johnson, George Kukahiko and Carl Pierce notified Staff Supporter they are be unable to attend this meeting
- **Review of March meeting's decisions, action items, accomplishments**
  - Laura Feinstein accepted the position of SWAC secretary

## **Monthly Topics:**

### **4. SWAC and the Solid Waste – SPU Budget Process – Briefing & Discussion**

- Tim Croll shared a letter sent out to Local 174 and Waste Management regarding strike actions
  - Message to customers – if pick-up was missed today (4/21), will be picked up next week
  - For tomorrow (4/22), put out solid waste
  - There will be a 6 AM meeting 4/22 to review status and see if need to change the message
  - The WMNW.com site will be continuously updated
- Tim Croll and Sherri Crawford shared information as to how the 2011 budget will be determined:
  - Budget consists of two primary pieces – budget and rates
  - Drainage & wastewater and solid waste have parallel costs
  - Must be submitted by end of June
  - Budget is approved by end of November by City Council
  - Rates review and finalized by City Council in summer
  - Need SWAC input by first-to-mid May – CBO 6 weeks before submittal
- 2010 mid-year cuts – some drivers
  - 2009 new solid waste collection contracts; 30% higher costs
  - 2010 drivers on rate increase 10% solid waste; new contracts for 1 year
  - New transfer stations also drivers
  - In determining cuts for 2010 from adopted budget, identified priorities:
    - Basic garbage service has to continue

- Basic recycle program which contributes to 60% recycle goal
- Waste prevention, product stewardship – harder to track benefits – cut expenditures – about half of typical
- Construction and demolition debris – relatively speaking lower priority
- 2011 set priorities
  - 9% rate increase
  - With bad economy, keep status quo
  - Not reinstate cuts made in 2010
    - Drivers – bag fee, anticipated to draw \$3-4M did not materialize
    - Inflation on O&M
    - Estimate on what recycle market will do
    - Downturn of economy already reflected in rates
    - Another bond issue for transfer stations possible
  - Live with 2010 budget
  - Evaluate if need further cuts
  - Currently have made sufficient reductions to meet financial targets

## 5. Rate Study – Briefing by Sub-Committee

Laura Feinstein shared information from end of February meeting:

- Outstanding studies not yet completed –
  - Commercial cans
  - Cost of service not yet completed
  - CAP study not available
- Need to draft letter submitting comments on extras rates – even if approve or disapprove
- Heavy garbage rate – last to be considered due to other increases
- Request clarification – commercial vs single/multi-family – not same as commercial; consider renegotiating commercial and multi-family rates
- EOW garbage discussion – where subscriptions going to go – try to keep at same volume, less frequency; not implemented for 2011
- Micro vs mini can – same rationale; ask Deborah
- Ask for cost allocation across classes
- Can't move forward at this time as don't have details
- **Action** – sub-committee write letter requesting action on:
  - Extras – support concept of aligning the extras rate for both commercial and residential customers with operational practice
  - Heavy garbage – endorses idea of moving to a heavy garbage rate, but put off implementation due to recent rate and service changes

## 6. Meeting With Councilmember O'Brien - Briefing

- Signe Gilson and David Ruggiero attended the joint CAC meeting with Councilmember O'Brien on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of the topics he supports are:
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  - Re-use
  - Product stewardship
  - Waste reduction
  - EOW garbage – not totally unified on issue
  - Wants input and to hear from SWAC
- Observations:
  - Councilmember O'Brien has a lot to get up-to-speed on
  - Invite for succinct discussion – concentrate on issues with hot buttons
  - **Action:** Send thank you for meeting with CAC, and SWAC; give web address for agenda and minutes

## 7. SWAC Name Change – Discussion

Defer to another month as Eric not available; possibly May, pending discussion with Eric.

## 8. SPU (External) Web – Briefing-Discussion

Linda Rogers presented invitation from SPU web team – SPU web team would like a volunteer to pre-test changes currently under development.

- SWAC would like to participate in reviewing redesign
- Suggested either having the developer come to a meeting and go over information with the SWAC, or
- Set up a BETA site for interested members to review, and return feedback
- Questions raised:
  - What is the intent of the site? What is SPU trying to convey
  - Recognize have had problems in past; what are recommendations for resolution of current issues?
- **Action:** Request developer to May meeting? Or when ready. Don't need polished model to share

## 9. Additional SWAC Actions

- Prepare letter regarding rates and send to proper recipient. To include:
  - Incentives, and can rates be set up to facilitate these
  - Sharps, medical waste – how handled
  - Stop waste before it happens – what are next steps? Can this affect markets, etc.
- Bio-Char working group – wants to come to speak to SWAC – waste energy discussion

## 10. Tactical Level Discussions

- Key ideas to get basic things at higher level
  - Education
  - Rate design
- How help improve adoption of items
- Re-usables in garbage, i.e., books, linens, etc
- City guidelines “beginning and the curb” – donate rather than dispose
- What are other cities doing?
- What happened to the “use it again” fairs
  - Involvement by senior citizen groups
  - DND – Donate Not Dispose
  - FNB – Find Not Buy

## 11. Wrap Up

### **Recommendations :**

- Recommendations for future meetings :
  - SWAC would like a follow-up that includes a little more specific information about the success of marketing the recently added materials, could be done in conjunction with update on the recyclables waste sort later this year.
  - Packaging – stop waste before it happens
  - Waste energy – possibly have Kathy Lambert, King County Council, visit and discuss
  - Tom Watson – King County – invite for discussion
  - Kathy Lambert – What's happening out there?
  - C&D – is it under direct prevue of SPU?

### **Action Items:**

- Prepare rates letter
- Prepare thank you letter to Councilmember O'Brien
- Invite developer to review SPU web site
- Vicky vs calendar – what needs to be added
- Rita to ask Tom for May meeting

- Ask George to discuss CDL status of incentive – interest or disinterest in CDL; permits
- Check in with Vicky on list of potential topics – send out for consideration for future meeting/s

**Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting – May 19, 2010**

- Approve meeting minutes for April, 2010
- Rates sub-committee report out – anything new
- Letters
- Are we ready to discuss name change for SWAC?
- Possible presentation and review by SPU web developer?

6:55 PM Meeting adjourned.