

Meeting Notes



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

May 21, 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, Mike McComber, Carl Pierce, Rita Smith, David Ruggiero

Guests: Teri Barclay, Seattle/King County Health Department

Staff: Aurora Mendoza, Henry Friedman, Vicky Beaumont

Absent: Nicole Riss, Kim Ducote

5:05 pm: Call to order.

Administration:

Chair Report:

Review for SWAC website not completed by each SWAC member yet. David will write text for a short paragraph about SWAC on the home page. He will submit it to the committee for comment, after which it will be emailed to Aurora and Vicky.

Draft letter of commendation with regard to the proposed bag fee and polystyrene ban not completed. Rita will work on initial draft.

Approval for April minutes moved to next meeting.

Monthly Topics:

4. Continuous SWAC Recruitment:

Aurora Mendoza indicated that there is a maximum of 12 members allowed per committee. SWAC currently has 8 members. Potential recruitment will need to support the executive order from the Mayor's office which emphasizes public engagement and community outreach, in addition to ending institutional racism. Aurora would like to develop and implement an outreach and public engagement process which will then be presented at a joint Citizen Advisory Committee meeting

for input. Joint CAC meeting can be expected in late summer or early fall. Current recruitment practice is to send one flyer once a year to residents. Additional recruitment is not supported by SPU, with the exception of generic business cards and the website. Any new applicants would follow standard procedure including interview by SPU.

SWAC recommended emphasizing diversity of knowledge base and industry experience in recruitment. Generic business cards were requested. In addition to longer-term recruitment supported by SPU, SWAC would like to work on immediate recruitment to secure more sustainable group size.

5. Site Tours:

Aurora Mendoza gathered input on potential tour sites and dates. SPU will coordinate site tour. Transportation to and from the site will not be supported. SWAC needs to research and provide contact information for each site they would like to visit and single point of contact at SWAC for her to coordinate with.

Valuable tours for SWAC previously included Cedar Grove Organics, Pacific Topsoil, Seattle Steel, Total Reclaim, local transfer stations, Cascade Recycling Center, Cedar Hills Landfill, new King County transfer station in Shoreline, Black River demo and transfer station, Renton Concrete. SWAC needs to determine which sites and dates apply to upcoming work.

6. Council Recycling & Tonnage Report:

Vicky Beaumont updated SWAC on Resolution 30990. A report is submitted to City Council each year, no later than July 1st, on the progress of recycling goals and description of upcoming actions. 2008 will be the first year for such a report which will also include SWAC comments. Language and placeholders in the draft supplied may change by the time it goes to the Executive and the Council. Waste composition studies are conducted every four years. Construction and demolition I waste is not included in the definition of MSW, and therefore not part of the recycling rate. Reporting overall waste and recycling per resident doesn't make much sense for Seattle because of the large daytime worker population. Comments must be received no later than June 2nd. SWAC focus should be on percentages, progress, what has been deduced, and actions being taken. The report is meant to be succinct with a narrow purpose. Definitions of industry language are outside of the scope.

SWAC recommends some minor changes to language for clarity and the addition of a short summary of the report's purpose. SWAC also suggests that graphs are displayed in a larger format. Additional comments will be submitted via email to Vicky.

7. New Facilities:

Henry Friedman updated SWAC on the status of the north and south transfer stations. SPU will release request for qualifications for design and construction for

transfer station by the end of May. Statements will be accepted for one month after their arrival and review, after which 3 will be shortlisted. WA regulations allow them to list up to 5. They have chosen to shortlist 3 in order to encourage competitive bidding. SPU estimates that it costs the bidder about \$500,000 to develop and submit a bid. SPU is considering giving each bidder an allowance of \$150,000 each to encourage accurate proposals. This is an alternative contracting process but not uncommon. Advantages include encouraging a fair price through competitive bidding, more accurate timeline estimates, collaboration between the contractor and designer to develop a buildable design.

Designs will follow City of Seattle standards for municipal buildings which require them to meet LEED silver or better. Specifications will be performance based. Scope for the RFP will be finalized within the next month. Any comments should be sent to Henry by the end of May.

The North transfer stations will require a "street vacation" for Carr Place North, which remove a portion of a given road from public access. Traffic was monitored and determined to be extremely low. SPU is required to provide public benefit to mitigate removing the street from public access. This is the only time that utility funds can be used for something other than the utility.

SPU is still working directly with community groups to determine public benefit. Some of their suggestions included a public meeting room, garden or planting strips, or an area designated for dogs.

The South transfer station has a "right of way" that also requires SPU to provide a public benefit. SPU has worked directly with the community. Some suggestions include expanded street sweeping, additional sidewalks in area of increased illegal dumping, community notices for labor when needed during construction (note: SPU cannot require the contractor to use such labor), and an educational viewing room in the station.

Determination of Non-Significance report for both statements, indicating that there will not be a significant adverse impact.

SWAC recommends that any public benefits be visible to the community so that future residents are aware of the resources available to them.

8. Chicago Waste Expo:

Carl attended the expo and informed SWAC about a collection receptacle that can be locked by the consumer but does not require the driver collecting the material to get out of the truck. The driver is able to unlock the container by using a magnet. This system will be introduced in Portland, OR shortly and has the potential to greatly reduce curbside contamination.

Wrap Up:

Action Items:

- ✓ Rita will draft letter a letter of commendation with regard to the proposed bag fee and polystyrene ban.
- ✓ Council Recycling & Tonnage Report comments due to Vicky no later than Wednesday May 28th.
- ✓ Determine location and date of site visits.
- ✓ Review David's draft language for the SWAC website.

Discussion for next month:

- ◇ Identify locations and dates for potential site tours.
- ◇ City of Seattle response to biodiesel requests related to contractual requirements for waste pickup trucks.
- ◇ Motor oil and electronics update.

Meeting adjourned.