



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

August 5, 2020 Meeting Notes
Microsoft Teams
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

*Co-Chair: Dirk Wassink
Co-Chair: Nico Onoda-McGuire*

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Alan Garvey	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Adam Maurer	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Rachtha Dahn	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Planning & Program Management Division Director
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Strategic Advisor & SWAC Coordinator
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Becca Fong	Solid Waste Residential Outreach
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Pat Kaufman	Solid Waste Commercial Outreach
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Jeff Fowler	Solid Waste Interim Deputy Director
Kit Gardner	Yes	Hans Van Dusen	Contracts & Diversion Manager
Lizzie Szorad	Yes	Stephanie Schwenger	Lead Planner, Solid & Hazardous Waste
		Sally Hulsman	Compliance & Inspections Manager
		Sheryl Anayas	Solid Waste Community Partnerships Team
		Veronica Fincher	Solid Waste Prevention Program
		Brie Kuhn	Guest

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Co-Chair, Dirk Wassink called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared their name and the city they are from.
- Notes for March and May were approved by members in attendance
- 8/5 will be the last meeting for Alan Garvey and Kit Gardner as SWAC members

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

SWLOB COVID Program Updates

- The city of Seattle continues to follow the state and county directives.
- Midway landfill – currently working with SDOT to remove encase from the ROW which will eventually be transported to Oregon for final disposal
- 2020 Bag Ban report was submitted to Council on 7/17/20
- SPU is actively engaged in packaging policy committee

Comp Plan & Public Comment Update

- Successfully received approval to move forward with the Comp Plan

3. SPU Solid Waste COVID-19 Snapshot

The Solid Waste Planning & Program Management staff gave updates on their sections and how are they are moving forward through COVID-19:

Contract Services & Facility Updates

- City moved into an Incident Command mode because of COVID. For SW, it meant dealing with staffing issues
- Collection contractors did not lose many staff. Commercial collection went down significantly as residential waste increased with more people being at home
- There was a challenge at the transfer stations with many staff being out with the risk of being exposed to COVID
- Transfer stations reopened to 7 days/week in June
- SPU is looking to keep its programs in place with the revenue staying consistent

CHOP/CHAZ related work

- Around 44 containers were removed from the CHOP/CHAZ area due to protests. Public area dumpsters were put in place of them and the customers appreciated that.
- SPU setup a regular service time by 5:30 a.m. to clear the area for collections. SPU was able to do this by staying in communication with the protestors.
- Port-o-Potty's were added in the CHOP and CHAZ

Outreach shift and future planning

- Unable to meet with people in person like usual.
- Made a conscious effort not to burden people with too much Solid Waste Information, in the beginning
- Working closely with outreach staff from hauler and consultants to try various modes of distanced outreach
- Participating in online webinars, updating social media, zoom meetings and video calls
- Currently looking into distanced visits
- This has also been an opportunity to look for things that we can control and do remotely
- SPU will try its best to stay connected to customers and respond to their needs & concerns

Consultants and subcontractors

- Finding ways to approach contracts with an equity lens
- Work right now consists of socially distanced outreach work and becoming more creative in communicating with residents
- Assisting businesses and restaurants with outdoor areas

Packaging, Bags & Commercial Outreach

- Outreach will not include in-person events, but virtual
- Recology: No contact audits & 'Streeteries'
- Waste Management (WM) has developed direct mail postcards with Relaunch Green info and WM Re-Think Waste & Recovery Grant info

Community Grants & Love Food, Stop Waste

- Great time to get messaging out with so many people at home and looking to prepare their own meals
- Working to pull different networks together in order to get the messaging out about how to make your groceries stretch longer and reduce trips to the grocery stores
- Grant program is still moving along and selected 9 different grant recipients for this year.

- Likely to extend some grant projects past this year due to COVID

4. Annual Waste Prevention and Recycling Report Overview

Stephanie Schwenger provided an overview of the 2019 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report.

- Overall waste generation and recycling remain flat despite a decade of staggering population growth
- A booming population + flat waste generation = declining daily per capita waste generation
- Generation decreased slightly, as did the recycling rate
- Next steps:
 - Finalize C&D recycling rate
 - Address issues with commercial recycling
 - Calculate overall recycling
 - Complete draft report for SWAC review

5. Waste Prevention and Recycling Rate Report Letter Discussion

- Alessandra will share the SWAC Letter Timeline via email due to timing.

6. Around the Table & Community Insights

N/A

Adjourned 7:20 p.m.