



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

September 2, 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	Role
Emily Newcomer	Yes	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Lizzie Szorad	Yes	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Adam Maurer	Yes	Susan Fife-Ferris	Solid Waste Planning & Program Management Division Director
Rachtha Dahn	Yes	Katie Lynd	Community Affairs Strategic Advisor, SWAC Coordinator
Alessandra Pistoia	Yes	Sheryl Anayas	Sr. Program Manager, Community Partnerships
Dirk Wassink	Yes	Pat Kaufman	Commercial Recycling Manager
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Yes	Hans VanDusen	Manager, Contracts & Diversion
Kelsie Blanthorn	Yes	Stephanie Schwenger	Planning Lead, Hazardous Waste
		Vicky Raya	EJSE Liaison

1. Regular Business

- SWAC Co-Chair, Nico Onoda-McGuire called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
- Members and guests introduced themselves. Prompted by the SWAC chair, they each shared one zero waste practice at home they have adopted recently, or that has significantly impacted their wallet (either negatively or positively)?
- Notes for August were approved by members in attendance

2. Solid Waste LOB Updates

SWLOB COVID Program Updates

- Essential operations are still in place and staff that do not work on the front line are teleworking
- Looking at ways to make adjustments for staff with dependent care concerns
- Susan is a representative of the *SMT Reimagined* team project which is developing ways to cut down workspace at SMT by 25% which would allow more staff to telework on a long-term basis

3. Embedding Equity During COVID and Racial Justice

The Solid Waste Branch Equity Team co-leads, Hans and Sheryl gave a presentation with EJSE liaison, Vicky Raya. The PowerPoint focused on Promote equity in our outreach to customers and engage with diverse populations

Current Outreach shift and future planning:

- Unable to meet with people in person like usual.
- Participating in online webinars, updating social media, zoom meetings and video calls
- Opportunity to continue examining how we reach more diverse audiences
- Ensuring subcontractors have steady body of work during pandemic and beyond

Packaging, Bags & Commercial Outreach:

- Outreach will not include in-person events, but virtual and focused on targeting BIPOC-owned and operated businesses
 - ✓ The Intentionalist – resource for finding small businesses in diverse local communities
 - ✓ Targeted Universalism framework – working towards equity in packaging enforcement
 - ✓ Revisiting subcontractor engagement at all levels of work

Multi-family Program:

- Main MF outreach contract amended to continue working with a team of multilingual solid waste specialists to keep supporting apartment residents for the next two years.
- SPU MF staff are working on gaining a better understanding on the solid waste costs that apartment residents pay, conducting research on billing methods, and comparing with typical single-family solid waste costs.
- The MF program is working on developing and improving methods to conduct virtual outreach with property managers and residents.

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 – engagement of ethnic media for potential campaign effort
- Grant program still moving along and selected 9 different grant recipients for this year
- Likely to extend some grant projects past this year due to COVID

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

4. Draft 2019 Waste Prevention and Recycling Rate Report Discussion

Stephanie Schwenger provided an overview of the 2019 Waste Prevention & Recycling Report which was followed by a group discussion around edits, emphasis, and narrative for SWAC comment letter

- SWAC members anticipate highlighting the EPR numbers in the letter.
- There will be a focus on how the waste generated did not change much in 2019 despite, the population increase
- Alessandra, Dirk and Nico will prepare a first draft of the letter to SWAC members on 9/8. Would like comments back from SWAC by 9/11
- The letter will be edited and sent for final review from SWAC on 9/18
- The letter will be finalized and sent to council on October 1st

5. Around the Table, Community Insights

- If there are any thoughts and ideas on how to improve the virtual meeting experience, please send them to Nico
- Katie Lynd invited the Clean Cities division to present at the October meeting

Adjourned 7:20 p.m.