



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

February 5, 2020 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

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

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff	Role
Emily Newcomer	Y	Sego Jackson	Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison
Alan Garvey	Y	Jemini Davis	Solid Waste Administrative Support
Adam Maurer	Y	Kamal Raslan	Solid Waste intern
Rachtha Dahn	N	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Alessandra Pistoia	Via Phone		
Dirk Wassink	Y		
Nico Onoda-McGuire	Y	Guests	
Kelsie Blanthorn	Y	Joel Dashnaw	Guest
		Shinichiro Matsui	Guest

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 their name, where they work and the place they wish they could visit most.
- Members helped indicate emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Meeting notes from January were reviewed and approved.

2. SWAC Feedback and Engagement

- SWAC members would like to know what they can do to assist in helping the advisory committees grow and thrive
 - **SWAC members** asked who should we be recruiting to be on the SWAC?
 - How we can better engage communities who are underrepresented?
 - How should SWAC reach out to communities and which community members should be involved in these discussions?
 - **A SWAC member** discussed the possibility of onboarding multiple new members at once to expedite the process of adding new members.
- Sego Jackson, Solid Waste LOB Policy Liaison, shared that it would be helpful for SWAC members to share specific ways SPU can do more outreach and hear from residents whose voices have not been represented.
 - If someone is interested, they should review the SWAC application and attend meetings as Guests to see SWAC work and how it impacts them.

- Parameters for an ideal candidate have not been defined. It is more about who brings diversity to the table, who is passionate about waste, committed to being on the team and participating in meetings, than having expertise in the industry.
- An SPU member shared that this might be a good time to decide which factors are most important when looking for a new member
- With Sheryl transitioning from her role, anyone interested in joining the SWAC should e-mail Sejo Jackson and Katie Lynd to learn about the onboarding process.

3. Reflection on 1/22/20 All-CAC Meeting

Overall consensus from the SWAC members who attended the All-CAC Meeting was that it was very enlightening.

- Attendees received an update from Community Affairs Division Director, Kathleen Baca.
- It was announced that CDWAC and WSAC are temporarily merging.
 - **A SWAC member** asked why are they only merging on a temporary basis?
 - **An SPU staff member** shared that this is due to staffing issues and there may be more changes by June.
 - In addition, there was recently a presentation on “One Water” which outlines overlaps between Water and Drainage & Wastewater. In the past, CDWAC and WSAC worked together as one committee.
 - Currently, there is a hold on bringing on new members to both WSAC and CDWAC.
 - **A SWAC member** shared they would love to continue to gather feedback from CDWAC and WSAC members.
- Attendees also got to learn about GIS input through a mapping project which displayed areas in which advisory committees are strong in and others in which they do not have much representation.
 - The map is currently internally based so committee members do not have access to it now. You can email Sheryl if interested in the information the maps contain.
 - **A SWAC member** discuss the potential application for GIS mapping tool and request feedback from SWAC members on GIS presentation.
- Sheryl Shapiro brings up discussion of Moving from centralized to decentralized approach to outreach.
 - **SWAC members** discuss the advantages of both approaches.
 - Decentralize – can get opinions and feedback from community members who cannot attend meetings (not to replace SWAC but as an addition to it).
 - Discussion of potentially moving the location of SWAC meetings in the future to accommodate more community members.
 - **SWAC members** highlighted the challenges of doing any additional work given the transitional phase the SWAC is in at this point. Can work on Decentralizing when transition is over

BREAK 6:10-6:15

4. Legislation Familiarization Exercise

Sego Jackson, SWAC/SWLOB Liaison introduced the intent to informally discuss the legislation process to help SWAC members become more comfortable with understanding and providing input on the bills that are being considered by legislators.

- Prior to the meeting, each team member was assigned a bill to research. They each reported out on their bills and gave a brief update of what they learned.
- The following bills were discussed:
 - **Food Labeling HB 2651**
 - Removal of “best by” tags from food that does not require it.
 - **Water withdrawal for bottled water SB 6278**
 - Determination that bottling of public water is a detriment to public wellbeing.
 - **Plastic Bags SB 5323 (Companion bill is HB 1205)**
 - **Minimum Recycled Content HB 2722**
 - Transitioning away from using virgin plastics with increasing penalties for producers.
 - **Compost Procurement and Use HB 2713**
 - Compost buy back from cities and municipalities.
 - **Industrial Waste Coordination Program SB 6430**
 - **Biowaste Study SB 6435 (Companion Bill is HB 2611)**
 - **Sharps Waste Stewardship HB 2360**
 - **Producer responsibility of medical sharps**
 - **Polystyrene Products SB 6213 (Companion bill is HB 2429)**
 - **Ban on expanded polystyrene products**
 - **Single-use Food Service Products HB 2656 (Companion bill is SB 6627)**
 - Fee for using non-compostable nonrecyclable single use food service packaging.
 - Companion bill defines single-use more specifically.
 - **Battery Stewardship HB 2496**
 - Batteries cannot be placed in curbside recycling and producers are responsible for stewardship.
 - **Repair of Digital Electronic Products SB 5799 (Companion Bill is HB 1342)**
 - Broaden access for customers to access repair and replacement for parts (for electronics built 2012 and after).
 - **Photovoltaic Module Recycling (no repeal) SB 6622**
 - Kills initial bill and repeal stewardship legislation in fine print.
 - **Solar Panel Recycling HB 2645**
 - Fixes to current law that producers of solar panels are responsible for recycling materials and creating from recycled materials.
- Sego walked the members through the legislation website and how to navigate it
- Sego provided the following tips if you are interested in contacting legislators:
 - Make sure you are contacting the legislators elected from your legislativedistrict.
 - Be very clear about what your interest or concern is

- Be clear if you are asking them to support or not support the legislation
- Keep personal comments simple.
- **A SWAC Member** asked if it is possible to check the status of each bill?
 - Segó showed how to check the status using the website.
 - Segó shared the Environmental Priorities Coalition website is an effective way to learn about bills that are supported or not by the environmental community.
- Segó asked the SWAC members what they thought of the exercise.
 - SWAC members said they were surprised to see how detailed the site is and they are happy to now know where to find information regarding legislation and bills.

5. 2020 SWAC Work Plan: Group discussion by members facilitated by SWAC Officers

- Each **SWAC member** was asked to vote High, Medium, or Low for each potential 2020 work plan item.
- **A SWAC Member** discussed priorities and shared that two topics per month seems ideal in terms of covering each comfortably and not having to rush through them.
- **A SWAC Member** shared that each member should leave their prioritization sheet and feedback form.

6. Around the Table & Community Insights

- SWAC members gave Sheryl a card and thanked her for all the work she has done in her role as leading the Advisory Committees.
- Sheryl thanked the SWAC for their kind words and the time they have committed to the committee.

Adjourned 7:35 p.m.