



SPU Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)

May 7, 2014 Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 5965

5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Co-Chairs: Wendy Walker & Heather Levy

Secretary: Aaron Lawhead

Present: Dan Corum ,Aaron Lawhead, David Della, Stephanie Schwenger, Chris Toman, Joseph Ringold, Heather Levy, Stacie Singleton, Katie Kennedy; Wendy Walker
Absent: Erika Melroy; Katie Salinas
Guests: Kyle Stetler, WSAC; Tom Grant, WSAC; Marilyn Baylor, CDWAC; Rodney Proctor (Prospective member), Bryan Vasquez
Staff: Dick Lilly, Vicky Beaumont, Linda Rogers, Sheryl Shapiro, Julie Burman, Ralph Naess, Dave Hilmo

5:31 pm Call to Order

1. Regular Business –Heather Levy, Co-Chair

- Meeting notes approved – April 2, 2014
- Report on outstanding items from April – none
- Chair report – none
- Around the Table:
 - Stacie Singleton– shared information for potential future speaker-which one?
 - Katie Kennedy - higher contamination on Every Other Week garbage in Portland
 - Los Angeles – ban on single use water bottle

2. Skip the Bottle, Drink Great Tap Water – Dave Hilmo, Drinking Water Director; Ralph Naess, Cedar River Watershed Public & Cultural Programs Manager

- Dave Hilmo -Presentation on a possible new campaign to encourage residents to drink tap water rather than bottled water
 - Promote value of tap water
 - Consumable commodity to customers?
 - Supporting policies – quality and improve customer confidence in quality
 - Previous proposals SPU and work done in other municipalities : San Francisco, Minneapolis (get websites from staff to include)
 - Clean safe water from my t
 - Mayor Nichols – from SW side – in front of barrel of oil showing how much save by not bottling;
 - Former Mayor Schell had proposed bottling and selling Seattle water-
- Ralph Naess – source of water? – watershed managers? – look at different areas for branding to get people to stop drinking bottled water

- Sample tag lines or suggestions
- SPU should be doing something like this – 25K visitors to Cedar River Watershed; many are surprised at the quality of water
- Many immigrants are not aware of the quality of our water
- SPU has a pilot project for traveling “hydration station “
- SPU has some funds that can be put towards campaign
- Develop brand, funds for swag (giveaways)
- Tom Grant - WSAC – encourage participation in campaign
 - Opportunity for collaboration among CACs to work with SPU staff and other partners
 - Help develop policies, business plan, nuts and bolts of what elements to include in good campaign
 - Social equity is a strong component for this campaign
 - Subcommittee can help with ways we can support and engage in this outreach
 - Inquiry as to support from SWAC on idea and who might want to participate campaign effort

Questions from presentation:

- How do numbers translate into a campaign to look at water as a resource?
- When we look at levels of community engagement, how do we get participation?
 - How can I do it in the easiest way possible?
 - What’s in it for me?
- Further questions can be sent to your policy advisor for moving forward

3. Ban of Waste in Residential and Commercial Garbage – Tim Croll, Solid Waste Director

- Composting survey information – 2950 respondents
 - 41:1 ratio of supporters
 - Food requirements – 57.5% strong support plus 28% support, 5.1% oppose to some degree – ratio of 17:1 supporters
 - Sample list consisted of 100K random zip codes; focused in south end
 - Survey still on-going
 - Focus groups getting feedback
 - Taking garbage samples from commercial customers; all have food service collection; determining how much is left in garbage
 - 36-38% of garbage is food waste and compostables
 - Will be talking with Mayor’s office towards end of the month
 - **Action item:** Asking for a formal position statement from SWAC – should we have a requirement of food waste ban in all sectors? Need to have recommendation in annual recycling report by end of June.
 - Implementation strategy
 - Enforcement strategy
 - What is the consequence if someone still has food waste or compostables in garbage?
 - Do similar as for recycling – make consistent
 - Need recommendations

- Disposal ban – illegal to put food in garbage; must have compost bin on site
 - Need more information and make recommendation by mid-June
 - May be better off supporting concepts as more information is needed
- Discussion regarding to frame and draft position paper

Questions:

- What type of outreach is being done on survey?
- What are next steps?
- What would group like?
- Without something large in commercial sectors, cannot reach our 60% recycling goal

4. Garbage Tonnage Q1 – Tim Croll, Solid Waste Director

- See 2007-2014 tonnage handout
- 1200 tons per month reduction – believed to be from North Transfer Station closing down; Shoreline is seeing increase of approximately 1000 additional tons
- Comparing 2007 and 2012 – disposals down, due to recycling, change in generation

Questions:

- Do we have a location in Eastern Washington where garbage is to be sent?

5. 2013 Annual Recycling Procedures – Vicky Beaumont, Policy Liaison

- Timing is unpredictable
- Will have most of the numbers by June meeting
- Will have opportunity to start letter to submit to council by July 1st
- Short documents; stick to facts, not try to identify whys and wherefores
- Presents performance for 2013
- Identifies what SPU/City is doing in 2014 and 2015
- May have one more section with organics piece
- Source data comes from residential collectors, and other businesses in collection business and process in Seattle

6. Strategic Business Plan – Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager

- May 14, 2014 Joint CAC meeting to provide overview of Strategic Business Plan
- SPU is completing work on the Draft Plan
- Draft will be given to Customer Review Panel next week Plan will be transmitted to the Mayor's Office at the beginning of June
- End of June, Draft plan will be sent to the City Council
- Special Committee of the City Council will review draft from July through the summer

7. Special Appreciation – All SWAC

Special thank you was given to Vickie Beaumont in recognition of her support and leadership of SWAC since 2006. Passing reins to Dick Lilly, Policy Liaison.

8. Discussion items

- Subcommittees – no current updates at present

- Tap water campaign crosses over into many of the topics suggested in February (i.e. Outreach/Engagement, Race and Social Justice, Technology);
- Pencil in 4th Wednesdays – reserved for Cross-CAC meetings
- Possibly on 6/25 doing pilot o for Phase II Outreach of Strategic Business Plan; may be able to do off-site – at South Transfer Station
- Request to consider in what areas members wish to fulfill their Committee commitment of 6-8 hours per month
- Notify Sheryl of Cross-committee/s want to participate in
 - Charter – Wendy Walker
 - Tap Water campaign – Chris Toman, Katie Kennedy, Rodney Proctor
 - Research – Stacie Singleton, Chris Toman
 - Governance – Wendy Walker
 - RSJ – Joseph Ringold, Stacie Singleton
 - Technology – Wendy Walker
 - Combustibles

Wrap Up:

9. Review: Heather Levy, Co-Chair

a) Recommendations?

b) Action Items:

- SWAC position statement for food waste ban
- SWAC cover letter for annual recycling report
- Tap Water campaign – create awareness; gauge interest; volunteers should familiarize selves with these campaigns throughout the nation; bring solid waste issues to the effort
- Food waste: Are other municipalities looking into this even if it hasn't been implemented? Stacie will do some additional research and bring information to focus group
- Get information back to SWAC on sampling from focus groups

c) Preliminary agenda for next meeting:

- Dick Lilly – agenda for number of businesses on service account?
 - Have mandatory collection
 - Does not require the businesses to sort

10. Next meeting is June 4, 2014 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

7:30 PM - Meeting adjourned