

MEETING MINUTES: City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)

DATE: December 11, 2014

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members Present

Jack Embick, Environmental Law
Michele Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical

SWRAC Members Absent

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling
Andrew Sharp, PennFuture
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Jeff Cardwell, Philadelphia School District
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department
Sal Iadonisi, U.S. Recycling

Others Present

Dylan Wells, Niche Recycling
Julian Goresko, University of Pennsylvania
Miriam Enriquez, Office of City Council Member Dennis O'Brien
Francine Locke, Philadelphia School District
Megan Garner, Philadelphia School District
Mike Roles, Clean Water Action
Mike Giuranna, US EPA Region III
Shannon Detweiler, ReCommunity Recycling

City Staff/Consultants

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Planner, Streets Dept.
Jim Osborn, ARI

Call to order/introductions:

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC co-chair Michelle Feldman at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Minutes:

Meeting minutes from June 19th, August 18th, and October 30th were approved by voice vote.

Recap of November 12 City Council Hearing on Organics:

City staff reported that the hearing testimony has been uploaded to the SWRAC's drop-box folders. Staff also indicated that they will be submitting a request for grant monies from PA DEP for funding of a comprehensive organics study. Discussions with PA DEP were positive, and staff will update SWRAC on the process during the January meeting.

Maurice Sampson reported that he had been privy to follow-up discussions with City Council members and that the reactions to the hearing have been positive. Mr. Sampson noted too that private sector potential and market development of organics infrastructure appears to have the most interest among City Council members at this point.

Commercial Recycling Regulations Discussion/Action:

Ian Hegarty from the Recycling Office delivered a presentation that detailed ongoing and planned commercial recycling initiatives, as well as associated challenges. Key points raised during presentation and follow-up discussion included:

- Estimated MSW generation by sector in Philadelphia in 2013 was 60.2% for commercial/institutional; 15.3% for construction and demolition debris; and 24.5% for residential. Some 48% of overall MSW was recycled, with 25% being disposed on through combustion and 27% through land filling.
- The C&D sector has an estimated 94% recycling rate. Overall commercial recycling rate in 2013 was 56.4% when C&D is counted and 46.7% when it is excluded.
- The Recycling Office is initiating a program designed to increase access to recycling in multifamily buildings.

The Recycling Office discussed potential legislative and regulatory actions to improve commercial recycling, including:

- A proposed amendment to the City Code to require businesses that receive municipal collection to file a recycling plan;
- Proposed amendments to Streets Department regulations to specify diverted materials, minimum recycling capacities, and minimum signage requirements for commercial properties.

Discussion following the presentation addressed the particulars of the multifamily recycling program, including the following points:

- Maurice Sampson recommends consultation with waste and recycling haulers;
- For the pilot, the Office selected buildings that were owned by operators with the greatest number of units in the City.
- The operators will be contacted and offered education materials for tenants. Inspections will follow the initial outreach.

Miriam Enriquez, legislative director for Councilman Dennis O'Brien's office, discussed Council Bill No. 140903 (O'Brien/Bass). Ms. Enriquez explained that the bill would amend the City Code section regulating dumpsters to better accommodate modern waste practices including food waste segregation, BioBins, and compactors with low collection frequency. A hearing in front of the Streets and Services Committee has been tentatively set for February 6th at 10:00am.

Draft Solid Waste Plan Update:

Staff announced that a first draft of the 2014-2024 Solid Waste Management Plan will be provided to PA DEP by the end of December. The draft includes SWRAC input from the June and August visioning sessions. Staff will post the document in the SWRAC's drop-box folder.

Announcements/Updates:

Staff and the SWRAC co-chair provided a recap of the America Recycles Day event from November 13th at Dillworth Park. There were participants and speakers from the City of Philadelphia, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, Keep America Beautiful, ReCommunity, Recyclebank, PECO and US EPA Region 3. The event garnered some positive press coverage in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* and Philadelphia Magazine.

The Recycling Office announced that it now has its own Facebook page and also has an enhanced presence on Twitter.

Co-chair Michelle Feldman reminded SWRAC members of the [Streets/KPB/Recyclebank social media campaign](#), which is inviting Philadelphians to post pictures demonstrating how they are keeping Philadelphia Beautiful. Participants will earn Recyclebank points, and be eligible for a prize too.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Submitted,

Recording

ATTACHMENTS