

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

**DATE:** November 30, 2017

**ATTENDEES:**

SWRAC Members

Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery (co-chair)  
Michelle Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful (co-chair)  
Robert Anderson, Curb My Clutter  
Jack Embick, Environmental Law  
Sal Iadonisi, U.S. Recycling  
Scott McGrath, Streets Sanitation  
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management  
Maurice Sampson, Clean Water Action  
Sara King, Penn

Others Present

Anthony Auliano, Republic Services  
James Capanna, Republic Services  
Frank Chimera, Republic Services  
Amy Cornelius, Citizen  
Blanche Helbling, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful  
Peter Karasik, Citizen  
Jim Mack, eForce Recycling  
Christian Saveoz, Republic Services  
Shraddha Sawant, eForce Recycling  
Steve Spinelli, Republic Services

City Staff/Consultants

Erin Cartwright, Recyclebank/Philacycle  
Everett Burgess, Recyclebank/Philacycle  
Marisa Lau, Streets/Recycling Office  
Sofia Guernica, Office of Sustainability  
Nic Esposito, MDO  
Haley Jordan, MDO  
Laura Cassidy, Prisons  
Faruq Scott, Streets Sanitation

---

**Call to order/introductions**

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC co-chairs Fern Gookin and Michelle Feldman at 3:05 pm.

**September Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the September SWRAC meeting were approved by voice vote.

## **Organics Subcommittee Report**

P. Kohl was unable to attend the SWRAC meeting due to an unexpected conflict.

## **SWRAC Planning Meeting Report**

M. Feldman gave a brief overview of the planning meeting in October. Meeting notes can be emailed upon request. Sara King (Penn) helped the executive committee brainstorm ways for the ZWL to collect feedback from large institutions as the commercial building waste audit program develops, along with other program and policy changes for waste reduction and diversion. Large institutions will be eligible for the Streets Department's new business partnership program to launch in 2018.

S. King reiterated that a City-convened Meds and Eds stakeholder group would be useful; such a forum would also allow institutions with similar challenges to share best practices for zero waste with each other.

## **Philadelphia Recycling Office/Philacycle update**

M. Lau highlighted two outreach events since the last SWRAC meeting. Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) held the Students for Zero Waste conference at Temple University, which Nic Esposito presented at and Kathleen Grady helped organize. Ms. Lau encouraged others to attend the conference next year at Penn, especially if they had not been to a zero waste event previously. She also attended the airport's annual America Recycles Day event for the first time, and noted that a dedicated group of airport employees provided recycling education to their peers. It would be a great model for other City agencies and departments to follow.

Next, E. Cartwright gave an update on Philacycle. The program launched, held a Captains training, and diverted waste at the Philadelphia Marathon in November. 31 people attended the training, which will be offered quarterly. Captains have access to different rewards and can earn points for participating in zero waste activities. The Philadelphia Marathon was a successful volunteer event, but there were lessons learned for how to run the event next year. Notably, vendors were not given guidelines on best practices for zero waste, making it difficult to predict what kind of materials would need to be diverted. M. Lau added that other zero waste events in Philly would not involve as much planning and coordination with the Sanitation Division as the marathon, and would be less challenging operationally overall.

A. Cornelius reported that her organization, Bella Vista Neighbors Association, and other groups such as Queen Village Neighbors Association have complaints about the bin partner program. M. Lau noted that there have been no deliveries this fall due to operational constraints, and deliveries will start tomorrow, Dec 1. Although the Department has tried to schedule deliveries several times this fall, in each case a different City operation took precedence and there were no trucks available. The Recycling Office will try to coordinate more with Sanitation Operations to reduce miscommunication to the bin partners.

A. Cornelius also asked for an update on the new BigBellys with foot pedals. S. McGrath reported that 275 new and rehabbed units total will be installed, primarily in Center City. Of these, 150 will be in

previously existing locations. Advertising will be installed on the units. Revenue will be used to pay for new equipment and cleaning services for the program. The installation period will continue into December.

S. McGrath and C. Raudenbush summarized the implications of the new PA budget for recycling. The budget that passed has no sunset fee for the disposal fee. However, the Governor is still able to reallocate funds from the Recycling Fund. The legislature is interested in revisiting Act 101 and modernizing the Act to better reflect solid waste management today. DEP can now open the recycling grant programs again in 2018-2019; there is \$75 million in the Recycling Fund.

- J. Embick added that taking money out of the Recycling Fund to reallocate to other budget items unrelated to recycling is clearly unconstitutional, and Pennsylvanians should not accept these transfers as the new norm.
- C. Raudenbush noted there has been pushback against consolidating the various smaller funds into a large fund.
- A. Cornelius asked who would be involved in creating new or revised legislation to replace Act 101. C. Raudenbush replied that this wasn't an imminent concern, but presumably environmental and advocacy groups would work together, as they did this past year. N. Esposito added that City lobbyists had advocated for the preservation of the Recycling Fund and would also be involved in any changes to Act 101.

#### **Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet update (N. Esposito)**

- Half of all Parks and Rec facilities now have outdoor recycling.
- 3 pieces of related legislation have been introduced in City Council. Councilman Henon introduced a bill that will allow vehicles involved in short dumping to be seized; Councilman Green introduced a bill to increase litter fines; and Council President Clarke introduced a bill that will require construction permits to identify waste haulers. L&I will also create a list of registered haulers that can be used when applying for a permit.
- The Litter Index is now 80% complete. Final data will be collected after December.
- Subcommittee updates on communications, behavioral science, and waste diversion and reduction:
  - CleanPHL.org has been expanded with an explanation of new zero waste and litter programs and serves as a central hub for related City resources; Philacycle has also launched.
  - The behavioral science subcommittee is awaiting the final results of the recycling bin study showing how improved access affects diversion rates, and how lids affect litter rates.
  - Despite the challenges noted earlier, the Marathon reached an 83% diversion rate through recycling and composting. The rate will increase when net donations are included.

- Municipal building waste audits were launched this month. All buildings will be required to complete an audit annually, with the option to report their diversion numbers. The City will develop a similar commercial building audit program; several questions were asked about it:
  - What commercial or other entities will be involved in the auditing process?
  - Will the audits require waste sorts and diversion weights to be reported? The municipal building audit asks for estimates based on containers and materials generated.
  - What information will be made available publically?

### **Greenworks update**

S. Guernica noted that the Office of Sustainability will release this year's Greenworks update as a magazine in late January.

### **Informational Items and Announcements**

- Keep Philadelphia Beautiful (M. Feldman)
  - KPB will reach over 4,500 students this calendar year through in-classroom presentations on litter and recycling, and has plans to add additional interactive elements to their workshops as well as tools / convening opportunities for teachers
  - KPB released their 4th annual Community Cleanup Resource Guide on America Recycles Day
  - KPB and the School District are about to open a new Head Start Agriculture and Environmental Center at Pratt School in North Philadelphia thanks to a \$20,000 grant from Lowe's and Keep America Beautiful
- C. Raudenbush asked about a bill introduced by PA Rep. Angel Cruz increasing fines for dumping tires in Philadelphia.
- B. Anderson reported that PA DEP held a press conference with AeroAggregates at the Navy Yard. He had brought a sample of foamed glass aggregate to the meeting, which was recently approved for use in PENNDOT projects and by other state transportation agencies. The material has been used for decades in Europe, but is not common in US construction projects. He suggested that Aero present at a future SWRAC meeting, and a tour of the facility be arranged.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.