

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

DATE: May 15, 2014

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members Present

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling
Andrew Dalzell, South of South Neighborhood Association
Jack Embick, Environmental Law
Joe Minott, Clean Air Council
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corporation
Michelle Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Andrew Sharp, PennFuture
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Patty Barthel, Waste Management
Tamika Davis, Airport DOA
Danielle Bower, Airport DOA
Michael Roles, Clean Water Action
Maura Jarvis, Drexel University
Alisa Shargorodsky, University of Pennsylvania
Alex Davis, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office

SWRAC Members Absent

Sal Iadonisi, United States Recycling, Inc.
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Jeffrey D. Cardwell, School District of Philadelphia
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department

City Staff

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Planner, Streets Dept.
Donald Carlton, Acting Commissioner, Streets Dept.
Conisha Davis, Streets Department/Recycling Office (Recording)

Call to order/introductions:

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Minutes:

The minutes from the April 17th meeting were approved unanimously.

Old business:

- Michelle Feldman and Andrew Sharp introduced themselves as the new co-chairs to serve SWRAC.
- Scott McGrath, Streets Department Environmental Services Director, talked about getting draft situated for the solid waste plan by Oct. 2014. Phil Bresee provided data for the draft plan updates. Maurice Sampson of Niche Recycling, mentioned data meeting; he asked for caution in reporting numbers that delineation between residential and commercial. Ensure that funding to recycle is not cut-off.

New business:

- Alex Dews introduced GreenWorks Philadelphia. Recycling plays a big part in this organization. Greenworks has 5 goals: energy, environment, equity, economy, and engagement.
 - The public participation requirements outlined in Act 101 and the administrative rules are minimal.
 - The SWRAC should go beyond the minimum requirements as it relates to public participation.
 - Members and staff discussed ways in which public input could be solicited, including multiple (two to four) city-wide forums.
 - SWRAC and the City need to ensure that the plan is not a finished work prior to seeking input, but also that it is far enough along whereby people can react to its contents in a meaningful way.
 - The Streets Department asked for public feedback on snow-removal operations this winter. Perhaps similar feedback can be sought related to the solid waste management plan.
- Scott McGrath provided a presentation update on the solid waste management plan and process. Key points and discussion included:
 - Chapters 1-4 of the plan will deal primarily with current conditions and MSW management.
 - Chapters 5-7 will evaluate disposal and processing capacity, as well as technological changes.
 - Chapters 8-9 will address programs and integration with the City's Greenworks plan.
 - Chapter 10 to address HHW and biosolids management.
 - Chapter 11 will address public participation; chapter 12 to address implementation.
 - Members agreed that the committee should establish a target completion date and use this to create a timeline for major tasks.
 - Minutes and backup from SWRAC and related meetings will be part of the official plan record.
- Phil Bresee provided a presentation overview of Philadelphia's solid waste management statistical compilation and reporting methodology. Highlights included:
 - Philadelphia's 2012 total (includes residential, commercial, and C&D) MSW generation was 2.7 million tons. Of that 50% was recycled, 27% landfilled and 23% combusted.

- Recycling rate is highly influenced by 80% recovery of C&D and high recovery of scrap metals.
- City counts MSW and recycling per Commonwealth rules. These are consistent with how other states measure MSW.
- City discussed tonnage data sources and the annual Act 101 reporting process.
- City discussed the 2010 MSW composition study, its methodology and findings.
- City compared MSW generation with other jurisdictions.
- MSW as sampled as part of the InSinkErator project in 2013 had similarities to MSW composition in 2010.
- Scott McGrath provided a presentation update on the BigBelly solar compacting public space trash and recycling container program. Highlights and key points included:
 - 970 units across the city (includes 420 recyclers).
 - Implemented in four phases; ARRA – EECGB grant monies were used as part of phase 3 expansion.
 - Some civics and business districts have purchased their own BigBelly units.
 - Units are being re-wrapped with the “I’m Behind Recycling” campaign theme.

Announcements:

- Commercial Recycling Toolkit is finally finished.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5 p.m. The next meeting will be held June 19th at 1 p.m. The meeting room number will be provided as part of meeting announcements and minutes to be distributed about a week prior to the meeting.

Submitted,

Conisha Davis (Recording)