

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

**DATE:** November 29, 2018

**ATTENDEES:**

SWRAC Members

Fern Gookin (Chair), Revolution Recovery  
Bob Anderson, Curb My Clutter  
Jack Embick, Citizen  
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department  
Chuck Raudenbush, Waste Management  
Maurice Sampson, Clean Water Action  
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corp

Others Present

Kathleen Grady, Temple University  
Samantha Wittchen, iSpring  
Peter Kararik, Ecologix / resident  
Logan Welde, Clean Air Council  
Dominic Fulginito, Republic Services  
Frank Chimera, Republic Services  
Andy Shea, RNG Energy Solutions  
Jim Mack, E Force  
Shardul Mullur, E Force  
Bob Ellis, RJE Const. Serv.  
Sara King, University of Pennsylvania  
Amy Cornelius, Citizen

City Staff/Consultants

Elena Fisher, PHL Airport  
Tamika Davis, PHL Airport  
Everett Burgess, Philacycle  
Kyle Lewis, City of Philadelphia  
Neil Garry, City of Philadelphia  
Tahlea Thomas, City of Philadelphia  
Nic Esposito, Managing Directors Office

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**Call to order/introductions**

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC chair Ms. Gookin at 3:10 pm.

**July Meeting Minutes**

Meeting minutes from the July 19<sup>th</sup> General SWRAC meeting were approved by voice vote, following a motion from Mr. Anderson.

## **Zero Waste + Litter Cabinet Updates**

### **Nic Esposito | Zero Waste and Litter Director, Managing Director's Office**

The progress report has been delayed, but should be out by the end of the year. It will be available on the website. Highlights include:

- Environmental crimes unit has been created
  - Able to begin more in depth investigations of illegal dumping
  - Warrants are being served to businesses
- Established litter index
- New legislation was passed requiring tire dealers to obtain a specific business license
- 25 zero waste events were held, yielded a 56% diversion rate. The latest event (The Marathon) was successful and yielded an 89.7% diversion rate.

Launched Commercial Waste Reports and outreach is underway. All commercial buildings are required to report recycling and waste on a monthly basis. Includes Zero Waste Partner Program, which SWRAC gave feedback on in 2017.

Compost Vendor Forum was held in the beginning of November. Looked at a possible location in Tacony.

### **Organics Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Kohl noted that the Organics Subcommittee has not met since the last General SWRAC meeting; there were no updates at this time.

### **Discussion of SWRAC Executive Order**

There was a discussion about the history of the Executive Order and the role of SWRAC. Mr. Embick noted that it was executed in 2008, but it took 5 years to form the committee. Now, there is a new administration which could impact the direction of SWRAC. Mr. Esposito suggested that SWRAC looks at the governance and committee structures of the Food Policy Advisory Council, which could be a model for SWRAC because they are engaged and effective. There was general discussion whether the Executive Order was too narrow or broad enough, but consensus that more direction will need to come from the Commissioner.

### **Philadelphia Recycling Office Updates**

Ms. Lewis introduced herself as the new Recycling Program Director and will be starting in the position on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Garry was introduced as the new Recycling Planner; he has been in the position for about three weeks.

### **Open Floor**

There was a general discussion about the current challenges of the recycling markets. The group discussed concerns about contamination and how the move to single stream recycling from separated streams has degraded the quality of the product. However, it was noted that the benefit of single stream is increased volume. It was expressed that the recycling contamination is not about the equipment or the technology that we use as much as it is about educating the community.

There were also questions about the status of the Disposal RFP. It was noted that the Disposal RFP will be issued in a couple of weeks.

## **Organics Feasibility Study Presentation**

**Scott McGrath | Streets Department, Sanitation Division**

The report is complete and will be posted online either this week or next. The link can be distributed to this group. Topics highlighted in the 2018 Organics Diversion Study include:

- Organics processing options in/near the City
- Current City organics collection options
- Options to expand organics collection
- Cost of organics collection options
- Transportation and processing cost of current organics processing facilities
- Recommendations
- Proposed 5 year plan implementation schedule

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:54 pm.

