

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

DATE: April 23, 2015

LOCATION: City of Philadelphia Municipal Services Building

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members Present

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office
Michelle Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department
Sal Iadonisi, U.S. Recycling
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corp.

SWRAC Members Absent

Jack Embick, Environmental Law
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical

Others Present

Wayne Bowen, Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center
Matt Braden, Councilman Dennis O'Brien's office
Mario Cimino, Pennsylvania Resources Council
Megan Garner, School District of Philadelphia
Mike Giuranna, US EPA Region III
Sara King, University of Pennsylvania
Michael Roles, Clean Water Action

City Staff/Consultants

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.
Jim Osborn, ARI
Allison Sands, Recyclebank/Recycling Office
Virginia Cain, Recyclebank/Recycling Office

Call to order/introductions:

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

Minutes:

Minutes from the March 26th meeting were approved by consent.

Announcement of new SWRAC co-chair

It was announced that Fern Gookin of Revolution Recovery will be serving as the SWRAC co-chair.

Presentations (2)

School District of Philadelphia's GreenFutures Program: Megan Garner of the School District of Philadelphia delivered a presentation on new recycling program being implemented by the district. Highlights included:

- Weekly recycling pickup available through Streets Department at curbside; however institutional settings should be picked up through carts or dumpsters.
- GreenFutures is SDP Sustainability Plan; to be released Summer, 2015
- Five pillars (education, efficiencies, engagement, environment, equity.)
- Consumption and Waste Subcommittee has been meeting.
- Republic Services is SDP's contractor; recycling services negotiated.
- Recycling Office won technical assistance grant from PA DEP which allowed them to conduct a review of their contract and container volumes.
- 40 schools set to begin recycling under program in May, with rest to come on-line by the end of 2015.
- SDP, along with help from the Recycling Office, Recyclebank, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful, and other partners has created an interactive toolkit and recycling inventory guide for schools.

FY 2015 Curbside Recycling Trends (Phil Bresee):

- For first half of FY 2015, curbside recycling yields are down 7% year over year; total residential MSW generation is level.
- Changes in packaging and less newspaper probably catching up; consistent with national trends.
- Outreach has focused more on "recycling right", so hopefully a higher-quality recycling stream is being collected.
- Sanitation Operations has also cracked down on mixing of recyclables with garbage on collection routes. Bresee estimates this has had the biggest impact. We are recycling less, but recycling better.
- Staff will continue to keep SWRAC updated on trends.

Organics Subcommittee Report:

Mike Giuranna delivered report for subcommittee.

- Mission statement was agreed to.
- Subcommittee to meet monthly, Tuesday preceding the regular SWRAC meeting.
- Discussed feasibility study and suggested components (benchmarking of other programs, quality control issues, Fairmount Park, technologies, etc.)

Other Announcements/Updates:

- Philly Spring Cleanup Results included 723 projects, 14,460 volunteers, 836,100 lbs. of trash removed,
- New Sanitation Convenience Center has opened at 5100 Grays Avenue

- Streets Department will be holding a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off event on Saturday, April 25th

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

- Next Meeting Set for May 26th