

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

DATE: February 23, 2017

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members

Michelle Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful (co-chair)

Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery (co-chair)

Robert Anderson, ReCommunity

Paul Kohl, Water Dept.

Denis Murphy, Commerce Dept.

Scott McGrath, Streets Dept.

Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management

Maurice Sampson, Clean Water Action

Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust

Others Present

Amy Cornelius, Citizen

Craig Roncace, U Penn

Kathleen Grady, Temple

City Staff/Consultants

Everett Burgess, Recycling Office/Recyclebank

Erin Cartwright, Recycling Office/Recyclebank

Marisa Lau, Streets Dept./Recycling Office

Nic Esposito, MDO

Christine Knapp, Office of Sustainability

Dominic McGraw, Office of Sustainability

Keith Warren, Streets Dept.

Carlton Williams, Streets Dept.

Call to order/introductions:

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC co-chairs Fern Gookin and Michelle Feldman at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Minutes:

Meeting minutes from the January SWRAC meeting were approved by voice vote (Raudenbush move, Sampson 2nd).

Informational Items and Announcements:

- *Solid Waste plan (M.Lau)* – A draft response to public comments has been completed and will be circulated by email to the SWRAC. The revised plan will be sent to DEP in early March. As a reminder, the dates of the Mayor’s Kick-off event, Block Captain Rally, and Philly Spring Clean Up this year are 3/8, 3/25, and 4/8.
- *Recycling Office outreach (M.Lau)* – This annual project will begin next month and again focus on residential multifamily properties and commercial properties. SWRAC will receive progress updates over the nine-month project period and a final summary.
- *Green Futures/KPB update (M.Feldman)* –
 - *School District GreenFutures-* Recycling presentations at targeted School District facilities are underway, courtesy of KPB, Recyclebank, iSpring and CMC. KPB continues to offer presentations to all District schools through its volunteer teacher program, and is on track to reach 1700 students this semester.
 - *Professional development day-* KPB’s second professional development workshop for teachers, in partnership with the School District, will take place next week. The focus will be conducting a waste audit, as a concrete project for a Green Team.
 - *Spring cleanups-* KPB will be hosting a community beautification event at Hunting Park with the Streets Department for the Philly Spring Cleanup, but also has cleanup opportunities scheduled for Earth Day (in Point Breeze) and Love Your Park week (at Penn Treaty Park).
- *Other updates* –
 - Chuck Raudenbush proposed inviting PAR-RecycleWorks to a future meeting to present on their e-waste recycling business that creates jobs for people who were formerly incarcerated. He also suggested that the SWRAC volunteer for the Phillies Red Goes Green program this season. Dates fill up fast.
 - Erin Cartwright announced that the last day to donate points to the Green Schools program is March 15 this year.
 - Bob Anderson shared news about the recycling markets. The price for cardboard and HDPE has risen quickly, driven by demand, but these gains may not be sustained.

Organics Subcommittee Report (P. Kohl):

[To be added]

Zero Waste and Litter Update

- Commissioner Williams described a new partnership program under development by the Streets Department to incentivize and assist large-scale organizations, community-based organizations, and residents in reaching the City’s goal for a zero waste and litter-free Philadelphia. Accreditation will take into account a range of strategies to

choose from, tailored to each program tier. For example, large-scale organizations could receive credit for following green procurement policies and holding zero waste events, while community groups could be recognized for waste diversion from community clean ups. Recyclebank is developing new mechanisms to recognize residents' zero waste efforts beyond recycling. More details about the partnership program will be shared at the next meeting, while the Department is looking for input from the SWRAC on how to design and implement the program.

- Maurice Sampson added that the RecycleMania model, which uses competition to promote desired behavior among students and on campuses, might be replicable here.
- The Commissioner also introduced the new Deputy Commissioner of Sanitation and former Chief of Operations, Keith Warren.
- Nic Esposito, Zero Waste and Litter Director, reiterated that the cabinet is tasked with preparing an action plan to achieve a zero waste and litter-free Philadelphia by 2035. In addition to the partnership program described by the Commissioner, the cabinet is also considering how to use regulatory tactics to increase compliance with waste and recycling laws, and possible legislative actions to strengthen these laws. The SWRAC is being asked to develop a zero waste definition for the action plan that captures Philadelphia's waste footprint and identifies a way to calculate our true diversion rate.
 - Christine Knapp added that the definition should identify which processes, not only which materials, count as diversion.
 - Vivian Van Story added that community-based organizations have invaluable knowledge about chronic problems like illegal dumping; City agencies and inspectors would benefit from partnering with these groups.

Group discussions

Ms. Feldman asked the SWRAC to form two working groups to assist with each of these tasks. SWRAC meetings will follow this format until the action plan is complete.

Group reports

Ms. Cartwright reported that Commissioner Williams distributed a handout outlining the Zero Waste Partnership program and briefed the group on how they plan to target and incentivize businesses, community based organizations, and residents to participate. Key points discussed by the group included:

- Expanding tax incentives for businesses that undertake zero waste initiatives
- How to best utilize existing resources and programs, such as Recycling Rewards & Keep Philadelphia Beautiful's quarterly meeting of neighborhood leaders

It was decided that LevLane will be invited to the next SWRAC meeting to help with continued brainstorming and formulation of ideas.

Ms. Gookin reported that Ms. Lau distributed a copy of the 2015 commercial recycling tonnages collected in Philadelphia that was reported to PA DEP. The group began discussing:

- What additional information is needed about our current diversion from the residential and commercial sectors
- Additional items and activities we might want to include in our diversion rate (thinking outside of the box)
- How best to calculate our rate (for instance, is calculating weight the best means of describing our diversion rate?)

It was decided that the Recycling Office will prepare a draft framework for the next SWRAC meeting that can help the group develop a more accurate accounting of what is currently diverted from landfills as they consider how to define zero waste.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45 pm.

DRAFT