

**MINUTES OF THE
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING TASK FORCE
APRIL 17, 2012**

Members Present

Bob Davis, Chairman
Tony Davies
Mark Taylor
D.J. Hardy
Bob Mays
Jim Lewis
Alyson Best

Staff Present

Dale Wyrick
Nancy Lindemeyer
Sheldon Smith
Jason Jernigan

Also present was Councilwoman T. Dianne Bellamy-Small.

The Waste Management and Recycling Task Force met on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:05.

Chair Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES:

Chair Davis stated that the absences of Ms. Brandon and Mr. Nussbaum were excused.

Mr. Mays moved to approve the absences of Ms. Brandon and Mr. Nussbaum, seconded by Ms. Best. The Task Force voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 3, 2012 MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Lewis voted to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Hardy. The Task Force voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Davis referred to City Council's Resolution and stated that Item 2 represents the official charge of the Task Force. Item 4 of the Resolution has been eliminated.

A Task Force objective has been offered for review and editing by Mr. Lewis. The objective encompasses much of what is included in the charge. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Brandon have crafted the objective that members plan to discuss later in the meeting.

Chair Davis proposed a time limit of two to three minutes for discussions to keep members focused on their charge. He perceived that the bulk of heavy discussion should occur in the subcommittee groups. When the subcommittee groups report to the full Task Force, the time frame will be expanded. Members were supportive of the proposal.

UPDATE FROM FIELD OPERATIONS:

Staff compiled and distributed summary reports to members on the subcommittee topics of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Recycling Collection, and Landfill Gas. Mr. Wyrick assigned a division manager to serve as a point person for each of the topic ideas.

Mr. Sheldon Smith, Solid Waste Collection Manager, will serve as the contact for the Recycling, Collection, and Processing Subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of Ms. Best, Chair Davis, and Mr. Hardy.

Mr. Jason Jernigan, Interim Solid Waste Disposal Manager, will be the point person for the Solid Waste Disposal subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of Ms. Brandon, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Taylor.

Ms. Gail Hay, Field Operations Compliance Manager, compiled the Landfill Gas summary and will serve as contact for the Waste-to-Energy Subcommittee. The subcommittee consists of Mr. Mays, Mr. Nussbaum, and Mr. Davies.

Mr. Lewis commented on a study being done in Orange County, California exploring the less expensive option of railing trash by train. Mr. Wyrick said that the option is not included in the existing Request for Proposals (RFP) but it could be considered later depending on how the process evolves. Mr. Bill Leonidas, ReCommunity Recycling, discussed the process that results in compacted logs of material that are loaded onto railcars. Mr. Taylor indicated that the Solid Waste Disposal subcommittee would look into the idea.

Members of the audience introduced themselves. Guests present in the audience included Mr. Bill Leonidas and Mr. Jerry White, ReCommunity Recycling; Ms. Goldie Wells, Citizens for Economic and Environmental Justice (CEEJ); and Mr. Chris Brook, staff attorney with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice in Durham, North Carolina.

At the request of the Task Force, Mr. Wyrick gave a brief summary the reports. Each report contains history relating to the topic followed by operational details.

- **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Disposal Report**

Mr. Wyrick noted a correction made by Mr. Taylor on the MSW report. In the second paragraph, U. S. Environmental Protection Services should be U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Responding to questions during the summary, Mr. Wyrick stated that there is no longer a solid waste fee attached to the water bill. Although the cost per ton to move garbage has increased over the last three years, the City has not increased the tip fee at the gate. The focus has been on reducing costs and hopefully the current RFP will help with money saving efforts.

Mr. Mays pointed out that the current RFP is a good source for additional information above what is listed on the summary reports.

Mr. Hardy asked about potential alternatives to bringing trash to the gate. Mr. Wyrick stated that Republic Services operates a transfer station within four to five miles of Greensboro's station.

- **Recycling Collection Report**

Mr. Smith summarized the Recycling Collection report. Ms. Best asked if there was data reflecting how much material was picked up as solid waste that should actually be recycled. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Wyrick conservatively estimated the amount to be around 15 to 20 percent. In addition, he estimated a 20 percent residue rate of materials that cannot be recycled but go into the recycling container. The dollar figure associated with the residue rate is \$400,000 per year including separation and disposal.

Mr. Smith responded to a question from Chair Davis and described plans to increase recycling opportunities in public housing. The City hopes to implement a program with public housing through the Greensboro Housing Authority for 19 communities with over 2,000 units. There will be cart stations at various locations in the communities with 18-gallon bins located at the apartments.

Mr. Taylor referred several suggestions to the Recycling Collection subcommittee. He referenced a recent newspaper article regarding an individual who had more recyclables than his brown can could accommodate so the overflow was placed in the green can. Mr. Taylor suggested charging a lesser amount for an additional recycling can to encourage more efficiency. In addition, he suggested the possibility of placing a pressure sensitive sticker on brown cans with radio frequency identification (RFID) to allow smart phones to access and identify acceptable recyclables.

Mr. Wyrick described the Coca Cola Recycle and Win program in Greensboro to encourage the quality and quantity of recycling. Up-to-date stickers will be affixed to recycling cans of individuals participating in the program. The stickers will indicate the type of materials that will be acceptable in the recyclable can.

- **Landfill Gas**

Mr. Wyrick gave an overview of the Landfill Gas report. He indicated that the City is moving toward getting a project in place to utilize the asset of landfill gas.

Mr. Wyrick explained that the City received a permit from the State to allow construction and demolition (C&D) material to be placed on top of MSW material in an unlined facility for Phase II gas production. Responding to a question, he said that C&D material on top of MSW material may actually be helpful in the extraction process.

The City will be going through closure practices in the next few years and capping will help with gas production by sealing it off and forcing it into the collection system. An increase in production may be evident following the capping process.

Mr. Smith responded to a question from Mr. Lewis and stated that there are two rear-loader collection trucks in the fleet that will use natural gas. The remainder of the fleet uses diesel fuel. Mr. Taylor urged staff to reconsider the advantages of using biodiesel fuel in the fleet.

REVIEW OF THE TASK FORCE CHARGE:

A suggestion was made at the last meeting to come up with a primary objective to keep members focused as a group. Mr. Lewis drafted an objective that was enhanced by Ms. Brandon. Mr. Lewis stated that Ms. Brandon led him back to City Council's Resolution as the objective was being crafted. Mr. Lewis noted that human health was not mentioned in his original objective along with the charge to engage the residents of Greensboro. To be more explicit, he felt that a piece of the Resolution should be lifted and placed into the objective and condensed down to something reasonable. A handout containing the original objective, Ms. Brandon's version, and the third condensed version was distributed to members for their review.

Mr. Lewis asked for input regarding the last statement on the handout. Mr. Taylor commented on the usage of the word "develop" and suggested that it be changed to "recommend". Members also discussed the use of the term "fiscally sustainable".

The Task Force decided to continue their discussion and vote on an acceptable objective at the next meeting so that Ms. Brandon could be present as she had a part in the crafting of the objective.

SUBCOMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS:

Chair Davis stated that each subcommittee should internally select a leader to represent the group. He pointed out that whatever is developed by a subcommittee must be approved by a vote from the overall body. He asked members to share any suggestions relative to the structure and process of subcommittees.

Mr. May suggested that an email be sent out when a subcommittee meeting is scheduled in case a visitor might want to attend. He cautioned that the rules for open meetings must be observed.

Mr. Taylor suggested a minimum meeting frequency to insure the subcommittees are meeting and moving forward.

Chair Davis said that between today and the next meeting, each subcommittee should develop a list of meeting dates. He felt there should be at least one subcommittee meeting scheduled between the bi-weekly Task Force meetings. Subcommittee members will decide on the location of their meetings. Subcommittees will give reports at the regular Task Force meetings.

For the initial subcommittee meeting, Chair Davis asked Mr. Lewis to call the MSW group together. He asked Ms. Best to call the Recycling group together and Mr. Mays to call the Energy-to-Waste group together.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Mr. Leonidas, ReCommunity Recycling, invited the Task Force to learn more about his company and offered to facilitate a tour of their facilities in Greensboro and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Wyrick announced that an Earth Day celebration will be held at Price Park this weekend. There will be a Plastic Bottle Blitz at the celebration with prizes to be given away.

Ms. Goldie Wells invited everyone to attend the Keeley Park Phase I grand opening. The event will be held on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Keeley Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Davies. The Task Force voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

There being no further business before the Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Davis, Chair

BD:sm/jd