

**MINUTES OF THE
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING TASK FORCE
JULY 10, 2012**

Members Present

Bob Davis, Chairman
Tony Davies
Mark Taylor
Bob Mays
Kay Brandon
Vic Nussbaum
Jim Lewis

Staff Present

Sheldon Smith
Gail Hay
Dale Wyrick
Nancy Lindemeyer

Also present were Councilwoman Nancy Vaughan and Councilman Jim Kee.

The Waste Management and Recycling Task Force met on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, commencing at 3:07 p.m.

Chair Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF ABSENCES:

Chair Davis stated that the absences of Ms. Best and Mr. Falls were excused.

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

APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2012 MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Mays moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2012 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Nussbaum. The Task Force voted unanimously 7-0 in favor of the motion.

STAFF UPDATE:

Mr. Wyrick updated members on the recycling RFP process. Staff plans to provide a report back to City Council at their work session in July, 2012. In addition, he reported that another consultant has been engaged to evaluate the MSW Disposal RFP.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the Coca-Cola Recycle and Win program. He reported that the first day for the challenge was July 9, 2012 and expectations have been exceeded relative to coverage. His ultimate goal from the program is an increase in tonnage of five percent.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Waste-to-Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Davies reviewed the Waste-to-Energy Subcommittee Interim Report as distributed to members.

Mr. Davies pointed out that the White Street landfill produces the largest source of methane gas in North Carolina that is not generating revenue. The subcommittee has been researching facilities that convert methane to electricity and he noted that clean technology is available and ready for installation. In addition, the group feels that the idea of using landfill methane to power the Osborne Waste Water Treatment Plant should be investigated. The subcommittee plans to do further research on how methane is used around the country. They hope to be a resource to the City in the development of a RFP for profitable use of Greensboro's landfill gas. The group also expects to be working closer with the Waste Disposal Subcommittee in the future as their work seems to be converging.

Recycling Subcommittee:

Following a review of best practices for local government recycling programs along with information from a recent conference, the Recycling Subcommittee submitted a list of recommendations for the City of Greensboro in their Interim Report. Chair Davis reviewed the six recommendations as distributed to members.

Mr. Smith presented a map of recycling participation within the City. The map reflected higher participation rates in Monday and Tuesday routes compared to Thursday and Friday routes. Mr. Smith has been asked to attend an upcoming neighborhood association meeting in a large northeast community to present the map in an educational mode to develop a competitive feeling among the residents to improve recycling in the area.

Mr. Nussbaum recommended using actual figures in utility statements relative to recycling savings to educate the public.

Mr. Mays asked Mr. Smith to discuss the types of carts in use including their efficiency, function, and cost at a future meeting. He pointed out that the Task Force's charge of long-term sustainable waste management is not compatible with the current MSW processing cost that is approaching \$50.00 per ton.

Disposal Subcommittee:

Mr. Taylor distributed a draft of Disposal Subcommittee input to members. He also plans to send a streamlined electronic version of the draft that reflects input from other subcommittee members.

Councilwoman Vaughan stated that the Task Force Interim Report presentation has been scheduled for the July 17, 2012 City Council meeting. Members agreed that Mr. Davies and Ms. Best will present the report to Council.

Mr. Mays reiterated that the processing cost of \$47.12 per ton is not sustainable in the long-term especially with rising fuel and operating costs. He felt that going forward; the Task Force must look for a long term solution. Mr. Taylor was in agreement and indicated that the Disposal Subcommittee is looking at other options that would lessen dependency on the transfer method.

Mr. Lewis commented on his efforts to approach solid waste from a regional point of view. He identified and discussed the steps of engagement as research, collaboration, and hypothesis to be broken down over a 90-day period. He proposed breaking up the extensive process of research into pieces using local universities and other resources in the City. In addition, he commented on the possibility of a Waste Management Authority in the future.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR:

At the request of Councilman Jim Kee, Mr. Taylor commented on short term ways to employ regional solutions in waste management. He felt that there were ways to achieve cooperation based on desirable outcomes. He proposed that the City of Greensboro should develop some component of waste management that is so desirable that others would like to use or share it and perhaps trade something in return.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

There being no further discussions before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Davis, Chair

BD:sm/jd