

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

10/1/24

4:30 PM

Members:

Chair: Councilor Brent Todd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Jeff Foote	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Judith Kurtz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Jim Schlosser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Karen McNamara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Councilor Kris Schultz	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Steinhauser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reagan Bissonnette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carol Foss	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Linda Zollo	<input type="checkbox"/>

Guests: N/A

At 4:30PM Chairman Brent Todd called the meeting to order.

He welcomed everyone in attendance, acknowledging some members of the public joining the group this evening.

He indicated the first order of business was to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Member Carol Foss noted she had minor grammatical changes that she would submit to Staff Member Adam Clark. Member Eric Steinhauser then made a motion to accept with the revisions, seconded by Councilor Jim Schlosser. The vote was unanimous with Member Regan Bissonnette and Councilor Judith Kurtz abstaining as they were not present.

With that, Chairman Todd, turned the floor over to Adam Clark. Mr. Clark noted that Director Chesley was not able to be with us tonight, but that he would do his best to work through the matters of the evening. The first item was a matter of the Downtown Solid Waste District assessments as they relate to residential condos in the District. Mr. Clark provided a brief history of the matter before the Committee, including the initial referral that SWAC had received from residents of the Hills Avenue Condo Association, the work that the General Services Department had done looking at recovering additional

revenues through increased licensure fees, the subsequent counter opinions that make that unamenable to economic development priorities in the Downtown. He continued explaining that the matter was then referred to the Community Development Department which issued a report back to the Committee noting the applicable RSA that applies in this instance.

Mr. Clark then went on to describe that the Department then sent the matter to the Legal Department for review and opinion. In that review, he explained, that the Committee COULD contemplate an adjustment to the assessment methodology so long that there was the ability to draw a link between the assessment and “proportional benefit” the condo owners received.

To that end, Mr. Clark detailed a proposal which sought to establish a new rate for residential condominiums using the following formula.

Proposed Alternative Assessment Strategy for Residential Condos

- ▶ EPA = a person generates 4.9 lbs. of trash/day
- ▶ The average household consists of 2.5 people
- ▶ This equals 85.75 lbs. per week
- ▶ $85.75 \text{ lbs}/30 \text{ lbs (Large PAYT Bag)} = 2.86 \text{ bags/week}$
- ▶ $2.86 \times \$3.20 = \$9.15/\text{week}$
- ▶ $\$9.15 \times 4.3 \text{ (weeks/month)} = \$39.35/\text{month}$
- ▶ Annual % increases in line with DTSWD contract
- ▶ Revisited at contract renewals

Chairman Todd thanked Mr. Clark for the presentation, thanking him and all Staff, for continuing to work the issue to this point. Conversation then occurred amongst the Committee members primarily focused on the 4.9 lbs/day figure that was proposed. Various members found the generation rate high, recognizing that the sample may be reflective of a lower generating cohort. Various members asked Staff about the possibility of better capturing a “Concord” number using data that we have rather than the EPA number. A number of hurdles present themselves in this regard but Staff agreed to noodle the problem to see what refinements could be teased out of our data.

Ms. Bissonnette expressed appreciation for the simplicity of the modality recognizing that too much refinement to each parcels assessment is a difficult exercise given all the potential variables. She agreed a “Concord number” would be helpful.

Members of the public representing the Hills Avenue Condo Association then took turns speaking thanking Staff for looking at the issue and expressing appreciation for the work thus far. Notes were made also about the EPA’s figure.

After more conversation around potential variations that could be considered down the line, a motion was made by Councilor Karen McNamara to recommendation of adoption of the proposed methodology with a directive for Staff to continue to look at the issue, specifically to see if that number could be verified or dismissed. Ms. Bissonnette seconded. The vote was then unanimous with members noting the intention to move quickly to provide those subject property owners relief.

Next on the agenda was discussion around the communication to residents in the matter of alternative toter sizes in the coming automated collection transition. Mr. Clark noted that because of course, the toters are deployed with some rigidity because of the nature of hard ordering and delivering dates, GSD sought to share with the group that they would be following similar tactics that other municipalities have employed whereby, pilot residents are broadly informed of the delivery date for their toters (following a City-wide mailing explaining the whole program rollout), and that those who fall into various categories (senior citizens, those needing ADA or other accommodations) would be asked to communicate those needs with the Department to accommodate. By doing so the Department can inform Casella of addresses where alternative sizes are needed.

Discussion occurred in the group appreciating the information, noting that more information will be sought on various toter aspects of the transition as we get closer to the rollout date. This may include questions on toters residents may already have, as well as questions of opting out.

Staff Member Angelina Zulkic then gave an overview of the new GSD webpage on the City website that is dedicated to the transition. The webpage seeks to be THE source of information for residents and will be updated regularly and she is happy to include any information that anyone feels adds value. Ms. Zulkic also shared that Staff is contemplating making a new video with Win-Waste.

Next Mr. Clark shared updates on the Committee's endorsement of the Apparel Impact textile diversion proposal. As it stands now, the Purchasing Department and the City Manager have given approval for a pilot program and the next step would be getting Mr. Joe Whitten in front of the various Committees that manage the various target locations (ex. Arena and the Parks and Recreation Committees). More to follow.

With that, Mr. Clark just noted that the Department still intends to seek approval for a compost drop-off location at the Transfer Station though details are still being worked out. Member Judith Kurtz noted the importance of engaging kids in compost efforts with potential School District partnerships.

With that, other business simply included foreshadowing that Mr. Clark anticipated the next meeting including a presentation by a representative of Prairie Robotics, the makers of the compliance program hardware and software that the Committee had learned about previously. Inclusion of funds to outfit the truck that will service the pilot automation routes is anticipated in the next fiscal year.

The Committee then thanked Staff as always. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Schlosser, seconded by Councilor Kurtz, and unanimously accepted.