

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
*CITY OF MILPITAS*

Minutes: Regular meeting of Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission  
Meeting Date: April 24, 2007  
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Place: Community Center, Rms. 7 & 8

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- I. ROLL** The Chair, Ed Blake, called to order the Milpitas Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission at 7:07 p.m. Commissioners John Ebnetter, Patrick Yung, and Hong Chen were present. Council liaison, Armando Gomez, was also present. Allied Waste representatives were Gil Cheso and Jeanne Mader. City staff was Kathleen Phalen, Marilyn Nickel and Elizabeth Koo.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – No flag available.
- III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES** – No alternates available.
- IV. MINUTES** Approval of the minutes of the January 30, 2007 meeting.
- Motion to approve:  
M/S: Ebnetter/Chen Ayes: All
- V. PUBLIC FORUM** No items were presented.
- VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
1. Chair Blake announced that Commissioner Mercado resigned from the commission.
  2. Chair Blake distributed commissioner applications for current vacancies with a request that the Commissioners pass them along to interested candidates.
  3. Chair Blake presented a certificate to John Ebnetter recognizing his contribution for calendar 2006. These certificates were originally distributed at the April 18 Commissioner Recognition Event.
- VII. AGENDA** Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.
- M/S: Chen/Yung Ayes: All
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS** No items were noted.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
1. *Solid Waste Rates Financial Analysis Proposals* – Staff Koo explained that the solid waste agreement allows for a biennial negotiation of rates and services. Staff issued a Request for Proposals on April 4, 2007 with proposals due on April 24, 2007. Staff confirmed that proposals were received from three companies: Cal Recovery, Environmental Planning Consultants and HF&F Consultants. Next update will occur at the July meeting.
  2. *2005 Annual Report Update* – Staff Koo reported that the 2005 annual report was submitted by the March 15, 2007 deadline. The preliminary diversion rate was originally calculated to be 56%, but based upon additional biomass information from Allied it was increased to 57%. This is the highest diversion rate that Milpitas has achieved to date. Staff expects to receive a final approval in the fall.

3. *Neighborhood Cleanup/Compost Giveaway Events Update* – Staff Nickel reported the following:
  - *Compost Giveaway Events*: 1,662 bags of compost were distributed at this year’s events. This is 200 fewer bags than last year.
  - *April 14, 2007 Neighborhood Cleanup* – A total of 194 participants disposed of 12.23 tons of garbage and recycled 7.61 tons of material. These amounts are lower than last year.

Commissioner Yung reported that he experienced a traffic gridlock when picking up his free bags at 9am and suggested an alternate traffic route. Allied staff Mader reported that, based upon past experience, the current traffic pattern appears to work the best. She also reported that earlier pickup times are typically more busy in general.

4. *Allied Updates*:

- *Household Dump Day (HDD) Tonnage Discussion* – Allied staff Cheso reported that eight years ago the HDD disposal amounts exceeded 3,000 tons. Since that time, the collected amounts has decrease to 2,417 tons in 2004, 2,622 tons in 2005, and 2,391 tons in 2006. He believes that the decrease may be due to increased recycling which reinforces his belief that the program is headed in the right direction. When asked, Commissioners Blake, Ebnetter and Yung responded that they used HDD on occasion and provided suggestions on alternative events that may make it possible for more residents to participate. Allied offered to review multiple options (which may include those suggested by the commissioners).
  - *Solid Waste Service Options* – Allied staff Cheso distributed a handout describing suggested solid waste service options (i.e. discontinue “unlimited” curbside service), rates (i.e. implement variable can rate) & programs (i.e. implement curbside e-waste collection of batteries and cell phones) and their associated benefits. Chair Blake discussed a Fremont-based e-waste collector called ELMARS that provides free and easy collection for the general public. Staff Koo distributed list of HHW drop-off sites and noted that information is available on the City’s website.
  - *E-Waste Recycling Survey* – Staff Mader reported that single-stream recycling has not generated the amount of recycling that was originally anticipated. She believes that behavior change would only be motivated by financial incentives. She discussed issues with multi-family recycling and described Allied’s latest outreach efforts.
5. *Built in incentives for Recycling* – Commissioner Chen led a discussion of possible measures to encourage increased recycling. He believes that behavior changes are necessary but will be difficult to accomplish without some financial incentives.
  6. *Developing an Activist Position* – Commissioner Chen led a discussion of Milpitas moving towards a zero waste goal. Proposed steps to achieve this goal could include:
    - Increased sustainability (incentive to use better material which would produce less waste overall).

- Consider Construction and Demolition Material as additional source of material that can be diverted.
- Select a model city upon which to duplicate their successful diversion efforts.
- Educate and include younger generations in recycling efforts.
- Educate multi-family property managers on recycling.
- Commissioner Chen also discussed the merits of a Green Building program.

**X. STAFF ACTIVITIES**

Staff Phalen highlighted a couple of the listed accomplishments:

1. 32-gallon cart mailer was a joint effort by Allied and City Staff for a selected target audience (mobile homes, townhomes, condominiums and residents receiving the senior rate);
2. E-Waste event held at the Milpitas High School on March 17.

**XI. ROUNDTABLE/ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Chair Blake suggested that the word “Announcements” be dropped from this section as it is already included in the beginning of the agenda. Commissioners discussed possible HDD changes to increase efficiency and participation.

**XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No items were noted. However, Chair Blake suggested that any recommendations for future agenda items could be e-mailed to Staff Koo at least 2-3 weeks prior to the meeting. Staff Koo distributed her business cards with e-mail information.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

XIV. Motion to adjourn.

M/S: Yung/Chen

Ayes: All

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.