

APPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Regular meeting of Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: January 25, 2011
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Meeting Room

I. ROLL Chair Blake called to order the Milpitas Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Kwong, Blake, Ablaza, Ybarra, Gill, Salian & Cimino and Council liaison Mayor Esteves were present. Bob Hilton and Tracy Swanborn representing HF&H Consultants were present. Staff Kathleen Phalen, Elizabeth Koo, and Leslie Stobbe were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE All

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES None

IV. MINUTES The minutes from the meeting of July 27, 2010.

Motion to approve.

M/S: Cimino/Ablaza

Ayes: All

V. PUBLIC FORUM None

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mayor suggested that a new agenda item called “Council Liaison Report” be added after “Approval of the Agenda.” This would be a new item 7A.
- New alternate commissioners Salian & Gill gave brief introductions.
- Staff Koo announced that the 2011 Annual Commission Event is scheduled for April 9 at Dave and Busters. A brief explanation of the event followed.

VII. AGENDA The agenda for this meeting was approved.

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S: Cimino/Ybarra

Ayes: All

VIIA. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Mayor Esteves gave a brief summary of his interest in serving on RSRAC and his experience with participating on the County’s Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission. He thanked the commissioners for their ongoing efforts related to environmental causes. He encouraged them to review their bylaws to identify related areas in which to expand the commission’s mission. This may necessitate increasing the current number of meetings. Lastly, he offered to meet with commissioners to discuss possible ideas or suggestions and if possible, to ease implementation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Solid Waste Service Planning

Staff Phalen briefly summarized that this topic is a component of the Solid Waste Master Plan which RSRAC has reviewed over the past year. The City engaged HF&H consultants to review

both long-term disposal options and identify both current and future service needs (such as collection systems, diversion programs, etc).

Swanborn followed with a powerpoint presentation on solid waste service planning. Discussion focused on the issues that the City would face during the remaining term of the agreement (through September 2017) and issues that should be addressed now to be in the best position to assure provision of future services.

Topics included:

- Timing of pending contract expiration, landfill capacity and Allied's landfill expansion.
- Immediate and future regulatory and technology changes.
- Develop a forward-thinking, strategic and sustainable plan.
- Outline of target activities and completion dates to meet objectives.
- Partial list of general service options for review and discussion purposes.
- Evaluate & adjust residential and commercial rate structures.

Graphics included:

- Pie chart of waste disposed by customer type.
- Line graph of Milpitas' annual diversion rate as reported to the State.

Staff Phalen suggested scheduling a special meeting in April to receive HF&H's completed report which would then enable staff to forward RSRAC's recommendation to the city council in late summer.

Discussion followed regarding Milpitas' reported diversion to the State. Staff Phalen offered to e-mail a sample electronic annual report (EAR) for the commissioners to review.

Mayor Esteves requested that material covered at future meetings be provided in advance to allow recipients time to absorb the information and prepare questions.

Commission deferred discussion of scheduling a special meeting in April until later in the agenda.

Brief discussion regarding growth projection impacts.

2. Polystyrene / Single-Use Carryout Bag Update

Staff Stobbe presented updates on the following items in reverse order:

A. Polystyrene Food Containers and Single-Use Plastic Bags

Staff Stobbe briefly reviewed Council direction to:

- Wait for CSJ Single-Use Bag Ban EIR.
- Study the impact of single-use bags and polystyrene (EPS) food containers on stakeholders.

The first item is almost completed.

The second item requires data gathering of studies which are complete but the analysis still needs to occur. Staff Stobbe shared the following initial findings:

- Determined that information gathering and reporting on plastic bags and polystyrene food containers were more easily viewed as separate studies.

- Three surveys were conducted for 1) single-use bag stakeholders, 2) EPS stakeholders and 3) residential phone survey. Studies 1 and 2 were based upon concentrated, specially selected contact lists.

Staff Stobbe summarized the single-use carryout bag survey first. Cascadia, the City's consultant on this project, studied programs of nine California municipalities that created ordinances to eliminate single-use, non-compostable bags. They also reviewed outreach and enforcement programs. Key findings are concerns with increased business expenses, probable pass-through costs to customers and the need for City's assistance with public education efforts. Interviewees suggested ban-alternatives such as expanded voluntary recycling of plastic and paper bags at stores and promoting reusable bags. Staff will review the collected information to determine whether to pursue a ban or another alternative.

She continued with a synopsis of the EPS survey. Cascadia reviewed forty statewide municipalities that adopted ordinances banning polystyrene, particularly disposable food service ware (such as plates, cups, bowls, etc). Consultant also looked at various outreach efforts and enforcement measures. They found that businesses were concerned with the cost impacts and unfamiliarity of alternative containers. Some businesses have already made a switch to compostable food ware. Staff Stobbe noted however that compostable food ware is handled as disposable food ware in Milpitas' curbside program. Staff will review results to make a decision on this issue.

Staff Stobbe concluded with a summary of the phone survey which looked at acceptance levels of banning products and the potential for behavior change. The data is still under review.

Brief discussion on plastic, recyclable takeout containers and polystyrene densifiers.

Next step is to receive a recommendation from RSRAC in April.

B. Status of the San Jose Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Staff Stobbe reported that the City of San Jose (CSJ) had a 2nd reading of their ordinance to ban single-use bags and assess a fee for paper bags on January 11. CSJ is awaiting a possible court challenge to the EIR report which can legally occur within the next 30 days. If after this period, a lawsuit is not filed, then the single-use bag ban will become effective January 1, 2012. Los Angeles and Santa Monica have completed their EIR reports and ordinance processes and are close to completing their 30 day wait period.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. *2011 Election of Officers* – Chair Blake and Vice-Chair Ybarra were reelected to their current positions.

X. STAFF ACTIVITIES

Staff Koo reported that a list of diversion activities was included in the packet for the commission's review.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Review meeting schedule frequency and start time.

XII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting is a special session scheduled for April 26, 2011 at 6pm.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.

M/S: Ybarra/Ablaza

Ayes: All