City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, January 16th, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton Convention Centre, Room 203

Present: Mary Lou Dickson  David Hart Dyke  Grant Ranalli
Jim Sweetman  Betty Hay Lambeck  Paul Barrett
Angela Pastorius  Rose Killey  Mark McQueen
Tom Thompson  Anton Volcansek  Dan Rodrigues

Regrets: Brooke Ryan  Peter Hutton

Also Present:  Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Project Manager of Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor of Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Trisha Branigan, Public Member
Ian DeLong, Public Member
Ron Joice, Public Member
Laurie Nielsen, Public Member
Donna Robinson, Public Member

The Task Force members and staff introduced themselves to those in attendance.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the December 12th, 2007 Meeting

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the December 12th, 2007 meeting.

Comments were made on Item 1 paragraph 2 that not all plastic food containers with a number 1, 2, 5 and 6 are recyclable. The message of “all food and beverage containers” captures the majority of plastics and comes directly from the operators of the recycling facility. Advertising too specifically results in lower capture of materials.

Staff made a change to the wording in Item 8 Paragraph 2. The paragraph should now read:

“A question was asked as to whether juice cans can be recycled or not. Staff answered that they can be recycled. Composite cans are also acceptable in the green cart if the metal is removed.”

The minutes were approved as amended.

(Moved by Dan Rodrigues, seconded by Jim Sweetman)

2. Administrative Items

a) Introduction of New Members

Three (3) new Task Force members Paul Barrett (Environment), Mark McQueen (Business) and Grant Ranalli (Education) were introduced at the meeting.

b) Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Nominations were solicited for the Chair position. Dan Rodrigues nominated Jim Sweetman, seconded by Mary Lou Dickson. There were no further nominations. The chair called a vote. The vote was carried unanimously. Jim Sweetman is now the Waste Reduction Task Force Chair.
Nominations were solicited for the Vice-Chair position. Mary Lou Dickson nominated Dave Hart Dyke, seconded by Angela Pastorius. There were no further nominations. The chair called a vote. The vote was carried unanimously. Dave Hart Dyke is now the Waste Reduction Task Force Vice-Chair.

c) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee
Background on the GLCC delegate position was given. A request for a volunteer was made by the Chair. Dan Rodrigues stated he would be like to be the delegate.

Staff was requested to look into whether or not the GLCC representative to the Task Force is still able to attend Task Force Meetings.

Peter Hutton will remain a delegate on the Steering Committee.

d) Sub-committee Memberships

Education & Communication Sub-Committee
A brief description of the sub-committee was given. The Chair asked if any members would like to join a sub-committee.

Grant Ranalli would like to join the Education and Communication sub-committee.

Current members are Angela Pastorius, Anton Volcansek and Grant Ranalli.

A member asked the sub-committee to contact someone at Saltfleet high school regarding composting at the school. Grant offered to do a presentation to the WRTF regarding Eco Schools.

Business and Government Liaison Sub-Committee
A brief description of the sub-committee was given. The Chair asked if any members would like to join a sub-committee.

Mark McQueen would like to join the Business and Government Liaison sub-committee.

Current members are Mary Lou Dickson, Mark McQueen and Laurie Nielsen.

Staff noted that the space in Jackson Square has been accounted for as of the end of February.

The sub-committee received a response from Maxwell House regarding the coffee canister lids that were not recyclable. The lids will be changed to HPDE (#2) and the Mobius loop will be added.

Staff will print improper packaging labels to be sent to the Provincial Government.

Multi-Residential, Commercial and Institutional Waste Sub-Committee:
A brief description of the sub-committee was given. The Chair asked if any members would like to join a sub-committee. No one volunteered to join this sub-committee.

Current Members are Jim Sweetman, Dan Rodrigues, Peter Hutton and Tom Thompson.

Currently, 130 multi-residential properties have received Green Carts. The implementation should be complete by 2009.

3. Standing Agenda Items
a) Sub-Committee Updates
Updates were given during Agenda Item 2.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)
There are no new updates from this committee. The GLCC is not meeting until February.

c) Steering Committee Update
This item has been deferred until the February WRTF meeting.

4. Waste Management 2008 Goals
A presentation was made on the Waste Management Overview.
The main points of the presentation were:

• Solid Waste Management Master Plan
• System Overview
• Programs and Services
• Moving Forward

Discussion took place around future collection zone changes, where residents can dispose of white goods with the curbside program ending, battery recycling in grocery stores and deposit return.

5. Budget Update

Discussion took place around the staff report dated December 10 that is going before Committee of the Whole tomorrow.

Waste Management is projecting a budget increase of 9% in 2008. Most of the increases relate to contractual increases minus revenue.

The Operations and Maintenance Division proposed that the recycling pilot program in City parks be abandoned and deemed unaffordable. The Steering Committee passed a motion requesting staff to report back as part of the budget process on maintaining the pilot and on other options for addressing the permitted parks.

A motion was made “That the WRTF support the Steering Committee's recommendation to continue with the Park's recycling pilot project and that the full project be implemented as soon as possible.”

The motion was moved by Dan Rodrigues, seconded by Tom Thompson. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Member Q & A

A concern was raised about polystyrene with the closure of the Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Association. Staff answered that they are still accepting polystyrene for now and looking for alternative markets.

A member commented that Pitch-In Week starts April 21, 2008.

The Chair will discuss holding a joint WRTF and Steering Committee meeting with staff (possibly April).

7. Other Business

As WastePlan is reconvening in May 2008, The WRTF delegate to the Joint Working Group will remain to be Dave Hart Dyke and Jim Sweetman (alternate). The WastePlan EA study and Liberty Energy project was explained to new WRTF members.

The WRTF WastePlan delegate and alternate will meet with staff to discuss the potential bump up for Liberty Energy to do a full EA. On February 9th there will be a digital thermometer exchange (for HHW) at the CRCs. Staff will be holding full day facility day tours in February and will invite the WRTF.

8. Public Discussion

A suggestion was made for the City to maintain the pilot program in parks and target commercial properties to increase diversion.

A comment was made that apartment dwellers with limited space will need assistance and staff advised that each building will be addressed on a case by case basis.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton Convention Centre, Albion C Room.

Moved by Dan Rodrigues and seconded by Tom Thompson that the meeting be adjourned.