City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, September 21st, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 110

Present: Rena Marie Cornelius  David Hart Dyke  Dorienne Cushman
Mary Lou Dickson  Peter Hutton  Michael Caruso
Brooke Ryan  Linda Hughes  Laurie Nielsen
Joel Begin  Joanne Bortolotto

Regrets: Ron Joice  Angela Pastorius  Dana Woods

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Colleen Brakewell, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Jim McKay, Jacques Whitford Environmental Ltd.
K. Johnston, Public
Chris Roarke, Public
Donna Robinson, Public
Trevor Hayhurst, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from August 17th, 2005

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the August 17th, 2005 meeting.

The minutes were amended and approved.
(Moved by Rena Marie Cornelius, seconded by Brooke Ryan)

2. Administrative Items

Staff notified the committee of the grand opening of the Mountain Community Recycling Center (CRC) on October 4th at 11:30am.

Staff advised that they would try to be more astute to the issue of religious holidays when scheduling meetings for WastePlan. Members of the task force had been concerned that individuals’ contact information was posted on the WastePlan website. Staff informed them that this has been removed from the website. Discussion took place about tipping fees and how higher tipping fees promotes recycling.

Staff advised that the WRTF would need PWIE and Council approval before sending letters out on City letterhead. This is direction from the Clerk’s department.

Task Force members notified staff of out dated graphics on the waste management area on myhamilton.ca. Discussion took place on the new myhamilton.ca website and the difficulty finding waste programs, the lack of waste management initiatives under the page on City initiatives, and the lack of information on the Task Force itself.

3. Budget Update

Staff presented the 2005 current budget status and 2006 budget pressures that Waste Management is facing. Questions arose amongst the group with regards to diversion and impacts of increasing interest rates on capital financing. Comments related to:

- it looks like we were a year behind in diversion targets
- do we have information on polystyrene numbers and participation rates?
- where do we stand with the recycling program at the public schools?

Staff has followed up with the school board and are waiting to hear back from them. The Steering Committee is aware of the issue and wants to be kept informed of the outcome. The discussion on schools will be deferred to a later meeting as time was an issue.

Discussion took place on whether the bulk collection budget will decrease when call-in bulk comes into place.

Staff notified the task force that there are potential design features that could be implemented at the landfill that would increase landfill life.

The presentation explained the programs the City offers with respect to Waste Management and also the waste budget pressures that the City is facing.

4. WastePlan

WastePlan presentations were handed out to the committee and due to time constraints the committee was asked to read them on their own. Staff emphasized the upcoming public consultation activities with regard to alternative systems methods which were outlined in the presentation. WastePlan will be further discussed at an additional meeting of the task force on either October 26th or October 12th. Comments were received in regards to the location of the WastePlan meetings and that some of them should be held in Hamilton or the other former municipalities and not always Stoney Creek.

5. Standing Committee Items

a) Education Committee

There was nothing to report.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Committee

It was reported that at the Glanbrook Landfill Committee (GLC) there was a lack of procedures for bulk waste going to landfill after bypassing the transfer stations. Staff will ask the landfill supervisor if the procedures have been put in place and report back to the committee.

Discussion also took place at the GLC with regards to the cost of the new building on the site. It was felt that it was too expensive. Staff will ask the Manager of Waste Disposal to report back on the cost of building this structure.

6. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives

a) CRC’s

The committee would like to know what is being recycled at the CRC’s, specifically if we are recycling monitors and TV’s. Staff will report back on this. A question was raised with regards to advertising the CRC and staff responded that advertising will be starting soon.

b) Enforcement Strategy

Staff informed the group that the report will be returned to PWIE in early November. The committee asked that they be notified of the progress.

7. Other Business

October 26th was set up as a preliminary date for an extra meeting to discuss WastePlan. October 12th was to be the second choice. Dave Merriman who is the lead consultant on WastePlan will be available at the Public Information Centre for questions on October 4th. Staff suggested that the chair of the Waste Reduction Task Force write to the WastePlan Joint Working Group informing them that their comments would be submitted after the meeting on October 26.
Further discussion took place with regards to the amount of letters to the editor with regards to recycling in the past couple of weeks. Committee members feel that citizens have a right to know what is being done about this. Mary Lou Dickson felt that staff should be able to respond to these letters. Staff informed the committee that the City makes 6 million stops per year and that ten calls are not excessive. Staff also needs to be certain of facts before addressing it with the contractor. The committee would like to know the number of calls we receive and staff will get back to the committee with this information if it is public.

8. Public Discussion

Trevor Hayhurst submitted his ideas to the committee on how to reduce waste in Hamilton. Mr. Hayhurst wants to encourage research and development and the use of McMaster and Mohawk in developing new technologies.

Chris Roarke stated that she has been undergoing major renovations at her home and has been taxing the recycling program. She has no complaints with this service.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 19th, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dundas Town Hall,

Moved by Mike Caruso and seconded by Joel Begin that the meeting be adjourned.

Copies to: All present
Regrets
SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List
Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works Department
Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Ida Bediou, Lisa Barroso