City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, August 15th, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton City Hall, Room 110, 71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Mary Lou Dickson  Laurie Nielsen   Anton Volcansek
Jim Sweetman  Tom Thompson  Peter Hutton
Angela Pastorius  Brooke Ryan   Michael Caruso
David Hart Dyke

Regrets: Karin Maja Larsen  Rose Killey   Betty Hay Lambeck
Dan Rodrigues

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Supervisor of Policy & Planning, Waste Management Division
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Scott Stewart, General Manager of Public Works, City of Hamilton
Donna Robinson, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from the July 18th, 2007 Meeting

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the July 18th, 2007 meeting.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Dave Hart Dyke)

2. Standing Agenda Items

a) Sub-Committee Updates

Business & Government

An update was provided by the sub-committee. The draft of letters to producers/retailers of excessive and unacceptable packaging was presented to all in attendance. A request was made for any further comments on the letters.

A request was made for envelopes and stamps to send the letters out. Staff indicated this was possible. Discussion took place on the use of letterhead. It was requested that all letters be sent through the sub-committee to avoid duplication. The first piece of unacceptable/excessive packaging was presented by one sub-committee member.

Multi-Residential, Institutional & Commercial Waste

No update was provided by the sub-committee. Staff provided an update on the superintendent workshop held in July.

Education & Communication Sub-Committee

No update was provided by the sub-committee. A sub-committee member noted that they are volunteering to help with the multi-residential roll-out when the opportunity arises.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

An update was provided on the recent open house at the landfill. It was announced that forty-two (42) homes have accepted the air purifiers and have not indicated any problems with them to the GLCC representative.
Staff indicated that forty (40) to fifty (50) people attended the open house from all over the city, not just near the landfill.

c) **Steering Committee Update**

It was reported that the SWMMP Steering Committee meeting for August is cancelled. The next meeting will take place in early September.

3. **Public Works Strategic Plan Presentation by Scott Stewart**

The Chair introduced Scott Stewart, General Manager of the Public Works department. Scott Stewart gave a presentation on the Public Works department Strategic Plan and the work done on its implementation.

Components of the Strategic Plan were outlined including the employee survey and the four (4) immediate priorities of the Plan. Some of the main environmentally progressive initiatives undertaken by the Public Works department were outlined including the Green Cart Program, Green Fleet, LEED certified buildings, acquisition of hybrid buses and the Red Hill Valley watershed planning work. Future directions and goals of the Public Works department were outlined.

A comment was made on not attaining the waste diversion goal of 65% by 2008 and that the City should have solicited input prior to announcing this.

A comment was made on the Triple Bottom Line portion of the presentation and a request was made for the Public Works department and Council to adhere to this bottom line in its future decisions. A response was provided and a request was made for staff and the public to provide input on the importance of programs to Councillors, so that planned programs are not sacrificed due to budget considerations. It was noted that long-term planning is necessary, but there is a legacy of short-term decisions that are hard to overcome.

A question was asked on the purchasing of street sweepers and how the City plans to do it better this time around. A response was provided on how the purchasing process was improved.

A comment was made on the communication and consultation component of the Strategic Plan and the need to keep focusing on improving it so the public is an active stakeholder. Staff responded that the Public Works department is pursuing new methods and approaches to engage the public in its initiatives.

The Chair thanked Scott Stewart for his presentation.

4. **Master Plan Updates**

a) **MRF Construction**

Staff provided a brief update on the renovations that are underway and announced that the September meeting will have presentations on recycling markets and an in-depth presentation from the Manager of Collection on the status of the retrofit.

b) **WastePlan**

Staff provided an update on the Addendum report to the Preferred System report and outlined the rationale for the recommendations put forth by staff. Staff announced that a recess to the WastePlan process was decided upon for nine (9) months in order for the municipalities to evaluate their programs and their needs.

Staff advised that the Addendum Report and Appendices are available on the WastePlan website and were not printed due to the large size of the files.

An announcement was made on the new co-chairs for Hamilton and Niagara.

Discussion took place on the need to further investigate stabilized landfill in order for the Niagara Region and City of Hamilton to continue to collaborate on a long-term disposal option.

c) **Diversion Options Workshop - Status & Arrangements**

Staff announced that the workshop will take place on Monday, August 20th in Room 110 in City Hall as this time worked best for the majority of Task Force members. An outside facilitator will be in attendance with staff partaking in an advisory role. The workshop will allow appropriate time for the Task Force to develop a position and/or request a delegation at the September 17th Public Works meeting.
d) Provincial/WDO/AMO Initiatives

Staff provided an overview of the recent waste management policy related announcements in the province and how the City is responding. These include:

- Provincial call for master plans to be tied to financial planning - Hamilton had already undertaken this for the SWMMP
- A requirement that landfills install gas collection systems - Hamilton is already undertaking this work
- Stewardship Ontario best practices study has been completed - Hamilton has been deemed to have passed all of the eight (8) Best Practices tests
- Proposed amendments to the Waste Diversion Act and AMO’s recommendations were outlined and have been submitted to the province for consideration
- Household Special Wastes designation was outlined
- WEEE (wastes electronics) has been designated by WDO and will be released for comment in the fall
- LCBO has requested to be removed from funding the blue box program - comments are now being received and staff is formally submitting comments on these proposed changes

5. Waste Reduction Task Force Priorities

The Task Force membership presented their five (5) top priorities and provided a background on the process of determining these priorities.

The five priorities are:

1) Actively push the 65% diversion target
2) Meetings should end with a decision on what gets reported to the SWMMP Steering Committee
3) Publish articles in the local press on a proactive basis
4) Emphasize reduction over the other 3 R’s (reuse, recycle, refuse)
5) Establish priorities in relation to the 19 Recommendations of the SWMMP - develop concrete plans around the recommendations chosen to work on

Staff described some of the progress that has been made on the SWMMP Recommendations and noted how some of the recommendations are not complete and will not be able to be achieved until a future date.

It was noted that the majority of the membership felt that the Task Force should focus on action more than passive observation.

It was noted that members find it important to have a clear idea of what their role is on the Task Force. The general nature of the Terms of Reference was mentioned and it was suggested that it might be necessary to revise it to give the WRTF a more defined focus.

A request was made for City staff to provide assistance on vandalism of blue carts at a member’s building. Staff indicated that the superintendent needs to call 905-546-CITY.

Discussion took place on what to do with regard to decisions made at the end of the meeting on the Steering Committee. It was decided that email communication on what should be communicated will be done by the Steering Committee delegate after the meeting. Staff suggested doing this at the end of each item and not at the end of the meeting as it may be lost due to time. The delegate will circulate an email to members after the meeting.

6. Other Business

a) Future Meeting Location

Staff announced that the Dundas Lions Community Centre will be the alternative meeting location for the Task Force during the renovations of City Hall. Other meeting locations that were considered were outlined.
An objection was made on the distance of the location from Stoney Creek. Staff indicated that they will look into co-ordinating carpooling.

Suggestions were made on alternative meeting locations such as churches and Fortino’s locations. Staff will look into these venues.

7. Public Discussion

An inquiry was made into the potential for organics diversion at grocery stores. Staff provided clarification on the city's jurisdiction for commercial waste and asked them to talk to their MPP during the upcoming election campaign as this is a matter of provincial jurisdiction.

A request was made for further information on the September meeting topics. Staff provided further information on what is scheduled.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19th, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Dundas Lion’s Community Centre, 10 Market Street South, Dundas.

Moved by Mary Lou Dickson and seconded by David Hart Dyke 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 Bedioui, Lisa Barroso