City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton City Hall, Room 264

Present: Peter Hutton  Paula Hamilton  Tom Thompson
          Greg Kraatz  Jim Sweetman  Grant Ranalli
          Jack Freiburger  Rose Killey

Regrets: Allan Freeman  Deborah Wilson  Elizabeth Wren
         Ron Speranzini  Dan Rodrigues

Also Present: Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
              Christina Gallimore, Supervisor of Operations Support
              Two public members

Peter Hutton called the meeting to order. He informed the group that the intention is to wrap up the meeting at 8:30 p.m. allowing for an informal discussion amongst committee members. The Chair welcomed the two members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Paula Hamilton)

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes from the previous meetings - February 16 and March 16, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Rose Killey)

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

A member inquired about frequency of the environmental and education sector reports. The Chair responded that the sectoral representatives generally provide updates when available. Other members may also provide comment to the standing item on education/environmental issues when available. The Chair also recognized that the business representative position is currently vacant.

The Chair stated that it may be useful for current members to consult with incoming members regarding the how SWMMP and other waste reduction issues are being addressed by the committee. A workshop with former WRTF members will be scheduled for early June.

4. Administrative Items

a) Summer meeting schedule

It was decided that the August meeting would be cancelled.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Grant Ranalli)

CARRIED
5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP) Review Update

Staff announced that the next SWMMP Review public workshop will be held on Thursday, April 28th. The consultants assigned to this project, exp. Limited (formerly known as Trow), have contacted past workshop participants as well as NGOs and community groups to encourage participation in the upcoming workshop. The primary purpose of the workshop will be to present a gap analysis and confirm the three guiding principles. The workshop will assess current diversion programs and consider future goals/direction with consideration given to how current programs may be improved, introduce new programs to address gap between current diversion rate and where we want to be.

Staff asked membership to review “actuals” from the 2008/2009 waste audits before the workshop. The Chair asked about the number of individuals/groups that are on the contact list and expressed disappointment regarding the amount of time given for groups to prepare for and participate in the workshop.

6. Projects

a) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

There is nothing new to report.

b) SWMMP Steering Committee

There was some discussion regarding operational issues such as communicating better to the public about picking up tires in bulk and that a number of garages will take tires back at no charge as tires are a designated material under the Waste Diversion Act. Hazardous waste was also discussed since various types of hazardous waste are collected at Community Recycling Centres (CRCs). Diversion at multi-residential buildings was also addressed and superintendents/owners are to contact City staff to obtain green carts for any buildings that have not implemented an organics diversion program. Some condominiums are not being built to City standards so residents will not have access to municipal garbage collection or recycling and organics diversion programs. There is a number of issues that were addressed at Public Works Committee (PWC) a few weeks ago. Although staff tries to encourage the proponents of development to provide accessible waste management facilities, developers still have the ability to opt for private collection services.

c) Clean City Liaison Committee (CCLC)

There is nothing new to report.

d) Ad-hoc Festival and Special Event Recycling Committee

There is nothing new to report.

7. Operations

a) Public Works Committee Reports: PWO4113a and PW11030

Two reports were discussed at the recent Public Works Committee (PWC) meeting. Peter Hutton and Jim Sweetman were in attendance at this meeting. The first report (PW04113a) looked at the cost of waste collection comparing contracted service providers and public forces. Private sector costs have escalated at a higher rate and are now beyond public sector costs. Given this information the City would like to consider costing public forces collection of recyclables in A zones.

The second report (PW11030) focused on a proposed approach to the waste collection system and Request for Proposals (RFP) procurement processes for waste collection and material recycling processing for 2013 - 2020. As it takes at least a year to acquire trucks, the processes must be complete and contracts awarded by early 2012. With the assistance of Stantec Limited a report of best practices and current industry standards was undertaken to develop a number of system options for waste collection and recycling processing. PWC recommended the removal of any collection scenario with bi-weekly garbage collection.
The Chair suggested that there is still time to influence any final decision to be made at Council on Wednesday April 27, 2011. WRTF membership is disappointed that the PWC is not considering bi-weekly garbage collection because PWC considers this to be a reduction in service.

The Chair recommended that the Task Force put forward their position on one-stream vs. two stream recycling and include the Blue Box report done by the WRTF. The Chair inquired if there were other ways for the Task Force to formally communicate their concerns to Council. Membership moved for a motion to formally communicate - by means of a letter – their disagreement with the PWC recommendation.
(Moved by Grant Ranalli, seconded by Jim Sweetman)  
CARRIED

b) Compost give-a-way
The compost give-a-ways will take place on April 30, May 7, and May 14 at six locations throughout the City: two locations per week. There is no limit in the amount of compost that may be purchased for a minimum of $1.00 per five gallon bucket.

8. Sector Reports

a) Business
There is nothing new to report.

b) Education
There is nothing new to report.

c.) Environment
There is nothing new to report.

9. Public Discussion
The public commented that they really liked the One Container Limit book. They also noted that it would be useful to have more information about how to properly dispose of shredded paper and varsol or mineral spirit jugs as those products were not mentioned.

Public asked about a first workshop follow up and information for the second workshop. Staff responded that details are available on the website at www.hamiltonwastereview.ca. Public mentioned that there is discussion currently in the newspaper about cloth and disposable diapers: diapers represent 1% of the total garbage collected by the City. The City does encourage the use of cloth diapers.

Public thanked the committee for allowing the community to attend these meetings and mentioned that Hamilton’s recycling program seems to be more advanced than the Region of Halton’s. Staff was asked if there are markets for everything that gets recycled. Staff responded that the City does not accept recyclable material for which there is currently no market. The SWMMP Review will explore the addition of more items to the acceptable recycling materials list.

10. Other Business
Staff and the Chair received notice of resignation from Michelle Morris.

11. Adjournment
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2011 in room 264 at Hamilton City Hall.
(Moved by Greg Kraatz, seconded by Grant Ranalli)  
CARRIED
Copies to:  All present
Regrets
SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List
Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works Department
Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Operations & Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Andy Grozelle, Lisa Barroso