City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, January 18th, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Room Next to Council Chambers, Dundas Town Hall, 60 Main St. W., Dundas

Present: Rena Marie Cornelius David Hart Dyke Dorienne Cushman
Mary Lou Dickson Michael Caruso Joel Begin
Linda Hughes Dana Woods Peter Hutton
Joanne Bortolotto Ron Joice Angela Pastorius
Laurie Nielsen

Regrets: Brooke Ryan

Also Present: Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Project Manager Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford Limited (arrived late)
David Merriman, MacViro Consultants Inc. (arrived late)
Gord Cameron, Public
Chris Roarke, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from December 14th, 2005

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the December 14th, 2005 meeting.

It was noted that Linda Hughes and Dana Woods were listed as present in the minutes when in fact they were absent. The minutes will be corrected to reflect this.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Peter Hutton, seconded by Dorienne Cushman)

A request was made that the names of those who speak be attached to the statements included in the minutes.

A motion was put forth that the agenda be amended to include discussion on the Liberty Energy incinerator proposal and the 3% cut to the Waste Management division budget. This motion was moved by Dorienne Cushman, seconded by Linda Hughes and unanimously approved.

2. Administrative Items

New Member Recruitment

Dave Hart Dyke passed the Chair to Dorienne Cushman.

The Chair asked those standing for reelection to step outside the meeting room during the member appointment process.

A representative from the new member recruitment subcommittee outlined the selection process used in evaluating the applications, which included the evaluation of each applicant’s qualifications, experience and evidence of interest pertaining to waste management and the activities of the Task Force.
The sub-committee put forth the recommendation that the applicants who were not appointed to the Task Force be invited to join one of the taskforce subcommittees and attend as public members.

The sub-committee put forth the following recommendations regarding the new member appointments:

- Public B1 Zone - Mary Lou Dickson
- Public B3 Zone - Angela Pastorius
- Public A3 Zone - Rena Marie Cornelius
- Environmental - Dave Hart Dyke

The sub-committee asked if there were any questions regarding the selections. The Chair asked for a motion to accept recommendations.

A motion was made by Linda Hughes that these recommendations be accepted, seconded by Peter Hutton.

The Task Force members standing for re-election were invited to return to the meeting room and they were informed of the decisions made on the new member appointments.

The new member appointment sub-committee recommended all applicants be thanked in writing and be invited to participate on Task Force sub-committees. It was suggested they also be invited to reapply to the Task Force in future elections. An inquiry was made into whether applicants are normally sent letters of thanks and it was concluded that they were sent letters in the past.

A question was asked about whether the process for informing unsuccessful applicants has been formalized about how they could participate on Task Force sub-committees. Discussion took place on how to best get in touch with these applicants.

3. 3% Budget Waste Management Budget Reduction

The issue of a 3% Waste Management budget reduction was presented by Beth Goodger, Director of Waste Management. The Task Force was notified that if they hear of changes to Waste Management operations it is due to these upcoming budget cuts.

A Task Force member attended the budget meeting on January 9th, 2006 and spoke to Council about the importance of staying with the initiatives surrounding the implementation of the SWMMP, specifically the Green Cart program.

A discussion took place regarding the importance of acquiring the proposed customer service staff to support the roll-out of the Green Cart program.

A motion that the Waste Management Division be permitted to hire the proposed customer service staff to support the Green Cart program was made to the Task Force by Dana Woods, seconded by Linda Hughes. The motion passed unanimously.

A member spoke about meeting with David Suzuki at an April 2005 meeting and stated that Mr. Suzuki emphasized the importance of the City staying on course to achieving its 65% waste diversion target.

Discussion took place about the limited flexibility of dealing with Council’s call for the 3% budget cut. An inquiry was made into what decisions had been made so far. Specifically, it was asked if cuts to Outreach were to be included. Staff responded that the Outreach budget had to be cut and that the possibility of introducing user fees and eliminating the current bulk program were being considered. A question was raised whether the WRTF will have any input on the changes proposed. Staff responded that the Task Force will be kept updated, and members may attend Council meetings to hear the deliberations on the budget cuts.

Discussion took place on the reduction of the number of construction waste bins at the Ottawa transfer station and its potential effect on the City’s diversion rate.
4. WastePlan Update

At 7:30 p.m. the Task Force meeting moved to the adjacent Council Chambers and joined the Dundas Community Council for a presentation on WastePlan and the recommended long-term waste management system identified in a draft December 8th, 2005 consultants report. A copy of the presentation is attached to the meeting minutes. At 8:35 p.m. the task force reconvened in the original meeting room to address items remaining on the agenda.

5. Liberty Energy Proposal

The Liberty Energy incinerator proposal was discussed. Discussion took place on the following issues related to the proposal and WastePlan’s preferred disposal system:

- The potential for the Liberty Energy facility to accept municipal solid waste and make WastePlan’s preferred thermal treatment facility redundant. A consultant indicated that the WastePlan and Liberty Energy facilities are of different designs and therefore cannot accept the same types of waste so any overlap of waste types being treated at these two facilities is therefore unlikely.
- The potential for the recovery of metals and the segregation of only the burnable fraction of the waste stream prior to thermal processing of municipal solid waste. A consultant indicated that due to the high diversion rates projected there would be little benefit for front-end extraction due to its high expense considering there would be little non-burnable material due to high organic diversion.
- The potential air pollution from not removing metals prior to combustion and the effectiveness of air filters to minimize these emissions.
- A consultant gave an overview of the environmental considerations incorporated into the WastePlan preferred disposal selection process.
- The achievability of the 65% diversion goal and what the size of the thermal facility will be planned for in order to handle the City’s residual waste. A consultant spoke of the need for contingency capacity to make the facility work properly.
- The potential need to site a new landfill to handle the waste product from thermal treatment. A consultant indicated that volume of the end product after thermal treatment is very low so a new landfill would be unlikely. The SWMMP states there would be 45 years of capacity remaining at the Glanbrook landfill using incineration. A new study will be necessary in order to incorporate the City’s existing diversion rate on the lifespan of the landfill.

Discussion resumed on the potential changes to Waste Management programs in order to meet the 3% budget reduction.

Discussion took place on proposed changes to the bulk collection program.

Discussion took place on whether the City recycled shingles and the potential to provide private disposal options for residents if the City did not accept this type of material for recycling.

Discussion resumed on the Liberty Energy proposal. An overview was provided on the current Liberty Energy sewage sludge incinerator proposal and its potential effect on the WastePlan process.

Discussion took place on the following items:

- Task Force member’s efforts to have their request accepted for a bump-up to the environmental assessment.
- The nature of the Chair of the Task Force’s recent communication with Liberty Energy representatives.
- The nature of the technology proposed for use by Liberty Energy.
- The impact of one or two incinerators on Hamilton’s airshed.
- The proposed changes in biosolids legislation in Ontario providing the rationale for Liberty Energy’s choice of siting their incinerator in Hamilton.
The size of the Liberty Energy proposal documents and the accessibility of these for the public.

The City’s reason for submitting a bump-up request for the Liberty Energy environmental assessment.

Why public questions have not been included in the Liberty Energy report verbatim. A consultant indicated that this is a common practice as it is unmanageable to record all public comments verbatim.

Whether the old SWARU site is planned for the Waste plan facility. A consultant indicated that they are looking at all of Hamilton and Niagara at this point in time.

6. Public Discussion

An inquiry was made into recycling at commercial properties and why they weren’t having their recycling collected. An overview on the difference between public and private collection in the City was provided which indicated there are private sector recycling companies that could provide recycling services to commercial properties, which would help them save money.

A discussion took place on promoting recycling stewardship with industries.

A comment was made on the anticipation of seeing new advertisements from the Waste Management Division.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15th, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall, Room 110.

Moved by Joel Begin and seconded by Rena Marie Cornelius 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 Lisa Barroso