City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, December 12th, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton Convention Centre, Room 203

Present: Mary Lou Dickson  David Hart Dyke  Laurie Nielsen
Jim Sweetman  Betty Hay Lambeck  Michael Caruso
Angela Pastorius  Rose Killey
Tom Thompson  Anton Volcansek

Regrets: Karin Maja Larsen  Brooke Ryan  Peter Hutton
Dan Rodrigues

Also Present:  Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Dennis Guy, Project Manager of Community Outreach, Waste Management Division
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Steve Plaice, Jacques Whitford
Elaine Raplin, Public
Keith Johnston, Public
John VanDuzer, Public
Tony Mastroianni, Public
Ian Delong, Public
Donna Robinson, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from the November 21st, 2007 Meeting

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the November 15th, 2006 meeting.

A staff member commented on Item 4, paragraph 10 the Transfer Station/Community Recycling Centre Review. The error that appeared in the 2006 CRC brochure regarding recycled plastics had been rectified in the latest version of the brochure.

A WRTF member commented that painted wood is not acceptable and should be indicated in the brochure. Staff noted that this will be taken into consideration for the next review of the brochure.

The minutes were approved.
(Moved by Angela Pastorius, seconded by Jim Sweetman)

2. Administrative Items

The WRTF dealt with the election of new members. The applicants and members of the public were asked to leave for the discussion.

A Task Force member on the New Member Appointment sub-committee explained that there are five (5) open positions on the WRTF. There were a total of twelve (12) applicants including two (2) incumbents. The candidate selection process for new member appointment was presented by the sub-committee members.

The sub-committee recommended the following people be elected to the WRTF:

- Dan Rodrigues (business)
- Peter Hutton (environment)
- Grant Ranalli (education)
- Paul Barrett (environment)
- Mark McQueen (business)
The applicants and members of the public were invited back to the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the sub-committee’s recommendation. The motion was moved by Angela Pastorius and seconded by Jim Sweetman. The vote was all in favour. The recommendation will be presented to the SWMMP Steering Committee and Public Works Committee for approval.

A suggestion was made that it would be useful to formalize the selection process for future elections. The New Member Appointment sub-committee will develop a best practice for candidate selection which will be presented to the SWMMP Steering Committee for information.

3. Standing Agenda Items
   a) Sub-Committee Updates
      
      Business & Government
      
      WRTF members will staff the packaging display at Eastgate Square Mall. The display in the Jackson Square Mall will be renewed.
      
      Response letters have been received from the companies Maxwell House and Hersheys.
      
      A Task Force member wrote a letter to the editor of the McMaster Silhouette clarifying that the Task Force does meet on a regular basis.
      
      Multi-Residential, Institutional & Commercial Waste
      
      Members of the WRTF observed the multi-residential focus groups that took place in November.
      
      Staff remarked that 19 out of 24 buildings have been setting out carts with minimal contamination.
      
      Education & Communication Sub-Committee
      
      The General Manager of Public Works has adopted Woodward School as a signature environment school. A media event will take place on December 17th.

   b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)
      
      Two (2) generators were delivered to the Glanbrook landfill on November 26th. The projected start-up date for the generators is August 2008.
      
      Air purifying units have been delivered to residents in the vicinity of the landfill and trees have been planted around the landfill. Contracts with Waste Management of Canada Corporation end in 2009.
      
   c) Steering Committee Update
      
      The SWMMP Steering Committee met on December 11th, 2007. The main item of discussion was the diversion options and one (1) container limit.
      
      A WRTF member inquired if it was possible to hold a joint Task Force/Steering Committee meeting in February or March.

4. One (1) Container Limit - Questions and Clarifications

   Staff discussed what is on the workplan for 2008 regarding the diversion option/one (1) container limit. The main points are:
   
   • 65% diversion by 2011
   • acceleration of multi-residential diversion - hire an additional two (2) students
   • one container:
     • will be communicated through the calendar; driver training; customer service training
     • grace periods and special considerations will be addressed
   • acceptable compostable bags to be communicated in the 2008 calendar
   • continually researching further diversion options

5. Diversion Analysis - Jim Sweetman

   Jim Sweetman made a presentation regarding diversion analysis. The data that has been collected will be useful when developing messages for the public.
The main points of the presentation were:

- curbside diversion rates
- weight percentage and recyclable percentage by category
- percent captured by category
- blue box contamination
- opportunities

6. Overview of 2008 Community Outreach - Dennis Guy

Dennis presented an overview of the Community Outreach plan for 2008. The main points of the presentation were:

- operational change communications
- research
- strategic approaches
- RFP processes
- diversion analysis
- major educational opportunities

A Task Force member had a comment on web sorters. They felt some people, i.e. elderly people, don’t use the computer or are confused by the internet and thought it would be better if information was found in the newspaper.

7. Other Business

Members who were leaving the Task Force were presented with a certificate from the Mayor and a gift on behalf of Waste Management. Thanks were given on behalf of the WRTF.

8. Public Discussion

A public member commented that fifty (50) pounds for one (1) container is the maximum weight allowed under the by-law, however most containers are not that heavy and as the container limit goes down the weight will increase.

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 tops and rims are removed.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16th, 2008 at 7 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall, Room Albion C.

Moved by Dave Hart Dyke and seconded by Jim Sweetman 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