City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, May 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton Convention Centre, Room 203

Present: Dan Rodrigues  Elaine Jermy  Jim Sweetman
Greg Kraatz  Grant Ranalli  Paul Barrett
Paula Hamilton  Rose Killey  Anton Volcansek
Ron Speranzini

Regrets: Allan Freeman  Mark McQueen  Tom Thompson
Trisha Branigan-Kilner  Peter Hutton

Also Present: Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Adrienne Press, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Stephen Toplak, Public

1. Approval of Agenda
The Chair explained that there was no need for a motion to approve the agenda as this meeting is being dedicated to a workshop.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the April 15, 2009 Meeting
This item was deferred until the June 17, 2009 Waste Reduction Task Force meeting.

3. Overview of Workshop Rules
Pat Parker gave an overview on the status of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP), accomplishments to date and outstanding issues. The workshop format was a “World Café” methodology for conversations surrounding two (2) questions regarding the SWMMP. The questions were:

1) How can we build on our successes to move from 55% to 65% diversion?
2) What consideration around technical issues and process are important for the SWMMP review?

The World Café process asks participants to adhere to the Café Assumptions and the Café Etiquette to listen and understand each other with the aim of building on each others ideas. This process allowed three (3) groups to voice their ideas during three (3) ten (10) minute rounds of conversation with some of the participants moving to new tables every ten (10) minutes. Members were not to concern themselves with resource requirements to implement ideas. Someone at each table (not always the same person) assumed the role of scribe to write the results of the conversations on flip chart paper. At the end of the conversations around both questions, the flip chart papers were put on the wall for a broader conversation about common patterns or insights.

4. Workshop Results
Question 1:  How can we build on our successes to move from 55% to 65% diversion?

Patterns/Insights

1) Education and Communication
   a) Waste management should be part of school curriculum beginning with the elementary system
   b) Simplify messaging (e.g. all plastics)
   c) Virtual tours of facilities/processes could be shown at schools and could be screened in the movie theatre similar to the movie “Garbage”
d) Public education should be more than just a flyer/calendar, more one on one education through forums, meetings, door-to-door

e) Overcoming behaviours (e.g. laziness, consumerism)

f) Communicate metrics and build incentive programs based on metrics (e.g. neighbourhood programs)

g) Public shaming

h) Expand gold box program to target children

i) Ensure we are using all communication channels to get message out

j) Newspaper column “ask Dennis” regarding what gets recycled

k) Address communication to homeowners so its not treated as junk mail (e.g. part of tax bill)

l) Members of WRTF answers questions in their community papers

m) Communicate costs and impacts on taxes

n) Change website to include pictures of items that go in the recycling and organics stream

o) Seminars on waste could be held at public libraries by City staff and WRTF members

p) Blogs developed on City website

q) Ads on City trucks and buses regarding Waste Management

2) Packaging Concerns

a) Implement programs to encourage residents to reduce what we buy

b) Producers should take responsibility of waste (EPR)

c) Communicate that buying bulk may create more waste from packaging (e.g. buying bulk from Costco as opposed to the Bulk Barn)

3) Enforcement

a) Begin the enforcement of the one bag limit

b) Enforcement of recycling at commercial properties on curbside collection

c) Bulk pickup - “oops” sticker items that are recyclable

4) Public/Private Communication

a) 2 way communication between schools/business/industry and City

b) Unified waste management policy between work, home and school

c) Businesses should encourage patrons to recycle and should provide recycling containers

5) Other

a) To minimize the “yuck” factor with green carts compostable liners could be given away or the cost of liners could be subsidized

b) Celebrate multi-res buildings that hit targets

c) Expand multi-res programs to townhouses (no more piles of garbage)

d) Parks - take home what you bring in

e) Pit zone against zone and publish results

f) Expand acceptable item list to include pet waste, diapers, farm waste
Question 2: What consideration around technical issues and process are important for the SWMMP review?

Patterns/Insights

1) Collection Efficiencies
   a) Bag tags hold people accountable and could be a revenue stream
   b) Explore bi-weekly garbage collection and weekly diversion collection
   c) Dedicated enforcement officers are necessary (instead of garbage collectors enforcing)

2) CRC Operations
   a) More satellite sites for spring Saturdays
   b) Find a market for home renovation waste
   c) More items should be acceptable at CRCs

3) Recycling Review
   a) Seek to advance the standard - not go to single stream recycling
   b) Harmonize recycling between jurisdictions
   c) Recycle all plastics with a mobius logo
   d) Find a market for mixed plastics
   e) More effective sorting, more advanced technology, more staff needed at MRF

4) Length of Contract Terms
   a) Contracts should be shorter in duration
   b) Keep in mind the long-term costs of contracts with service providers/collectors
   c) Need flexibility in terms of contracts so adjustments can take place sooner

5) Engage Stakeholder Groups in Review
   a) IC&I are the key areas of concern
   b) Consult with public - take the public interest before private interest
   c) Multi-stakeholder group to review SWMMP, IC&I should be part of review

6) Other
   a) Explore EFW if “clean” to our air shed and watershed
   b) Encourage entrepreneurs to step in and pick up material that needs to be retrofitted/cleaned before it is recycled

5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

Results of the workshop will become the minutes from the meeting and will be circulated to the WRTF. Participants were asked fill out a workshop evaluation form, results are as follows:

What would you keep?

- Appreciate the visual aids
- Enjoyed the forum - offered more discussion and exchange of ideas
- Changing tables and mixing group is a great idea
- Very talented artist
- Appreciate the cost savings in not printing
• Great interaction and brainstorming
• Nice change of meeting format

What would you lose?
• Was a bit nebulous but still generated good comment
• One question would have been enough - it really about generating comment
• Second question was somewhat unclear - would have helped to provide an overview immediately before discussion

What would you change?
• If more than one question review before each question
• Handout evaluation forms to get better response or include as part of workshop

Comments
• Looking forward to the written wrap-up/minutes
• Lets do this kind of exercise more often than once per year
• That was great!
• Could run workshops more frequently
• Use this format once a quarter, much more interactive

6. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 17, 2009 at the Hamilton Convention Centre, Room 203.

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, Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Carolyn Biggs, Lisa Barroso