

City of Lawrence

Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB)

February 10, 2010 (5:30 PM) Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Sarah Hill-Nelson, Eileen Horn, Beth Johnson, Matt Lehrman, Chad Luce, Megan Poindexter, Daniel Poull, Andrea Repinsky, Simran Sethi, Brian Sifton
MEMBERS ABSENT:	
STAFF PRESENT:	Tammy Bennett, Kathy Richardson
GUESTS PRESENT:	Commissioner Mike Amyx
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Mark Bowser, John Ware, Byron Wiley

Call Meeting to Order (Matt Lehrman, Chairperson)

Take Roll Call to Determine Quorum of Members

ANY PRESSING ITEMS

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion and second to approve the January 13, 2010 minutes (Poull/Poindexter).

Motion was passed unanimously.

Q&A with City Commissioner Mike Amyx

As a follow up of a City Commission discussion earlier this month regarding curbside recycling, the board asked Commissioner Amyx where he stands on registration versus licensure for businesses providing curbside recycling service in Lawrence. Commissioner Amyx said that the City has a responsibility of knowing who is using the right-of-way business-wise, but he thinks this can be done via a registration process and not necessarily through licensure. Commissioner Amyx does not want to put a burden on small businesses that have been providing this service and doing a good job. He also commented that he agrees these businesses should be insured.

The board asked Commissioner Amyx for his thoughts on Laura Routh's email to the City Commission commenting on SAB's proposed public/private partnership for recycling. The board explained that Laura Routh's email indicated that SAB's proposal was just "window-dressing". Commissioner Amyx stated that he appreciates the diversity of opinion. He strongly believes that the SAB idea brought forward to the City Commission was good, doable and something that all Commissioners supported because it is the right thing to do at this time. It was a great first step.

The board asked Commissioner Amyx what he would like to see in 5 to 10 years for Lawrence regarding recycling. He stated that the City has to position itself to be prepared for some type of curbside recycling in the future. What is it going to look like? How is it going to be made affordable to the users of this service? What is it going to take? Commissioner Amyx said he believes curbside recycling needs be a City program.

Commissioner Amyx was also asked about his thoughts on Pay as You Throw. He commented that the City needs to look at this more as we move forward.

Future of downtown? Commissioner Amyx said that the City has to be careful with how fragile downtown is. He would disagree to closing down streets in order to make these walking streets stating that there already is limited parking. Commissioner Amyx also brought up that there are many plans in the works that will bring people to live downtown.

The board wanted to know if there is anything on Commissioner Amyx's agenda that the SAB could provide support for. Commissioner Amyx stated that the board will soon hear from Les Blevins and his ideas. He also stated that SAB should continue to propose ideas to enhance the City's current recycling programs, but to understand that ideas may not always be supported by the Commission due to deep cuts occurring in the Public Works and Solid Waste Division budgets.

Commissioner Amyx also discussed Farmland by stating that the City has the opportunity to make the single greatest impact on Brownfield cleanups but also in economic development by acquiring this land. He informed the board that a decision on Farmland would be made soon.

Burroughs Creek Trail Fruit/Nut Tree Proposal

Andrea Repinsky informed the board and Commissioner Amyx about the Lawrence Fruit Tree Project, a volunteer group that is working towards planting fruit trees in public spaces. Currently this group is seeking support for planting fruit trees in the Burroughs Creek Trail which is under construction. There are a few obstacles (i.e. maintenance, code, etc.) to overcome but City staff in the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department is currently working with this group. The City Code which states a person cannot pick fruit off trees in public/private spaces will need to be amended. Andrea Repinsky brought this topic to the board because it relates to sustainability and she also mentioned that she would reach out to the County's Local Foods Policy Council.

Commissioner Amyx said he was going to discuss this topic with Dave Corliss tomorrow. If he sees any issues with it he will get a hold of Andrea Repinsky.

12th and Haskell Bargain Center

Andrea Repinsky and Byron Wiley are neighbors of the 12th and Haskell Bargain Center. They described the issues with this business (noise, litter, fires, and flood plain issues). Byron Wiley commented that the Bargain Center has expanded beyond their permitted non-conforming use. He is working on a letter to the City Commission summarizing the issues of the Bargain Center and he will email the letter to SAB prior to submittal.

The board discussed what the environmental issues at the Bargain Center are and what, if any, response or action the board should take. There was no resolution. The board will continue the discussion of this agenda item at a future meeting.

Recap of City Commission 2-02-10 Agenda Items: Solid Waste Audit and Recycling Information.

Tammy Bennett summarized the takeaway items from the 2-02-10 City Commission meeting. For Solid Waste:

1. Review the incentive program and overtime policy.
2. Pay-as-You-Throw is a policy issue that warrants discussion.
3. Work on commercial rate comparisons.
4. Look into charging for bulky item collections and/or large amounts of trash.

For Recycling:

1. The City Commission supports the board's recommendation for the City to partner with private businesses providing curbside recycling services.
2. The recommendation is a starting point, not an ending point.
3. There will be further discussion with the City Commission on registration versus licensure for the private businesses.
4. The next step will be for staff to work on an implementation timeline.

Motion and second for Brian Sifton to write an email on behalf of the board to the Mayor and City Commissioners thanking them for supporting enhanced curbside recycling efforts in Lawrence (Hill-Nelson/Poull). Motion was passed unanimously.

SAB Outreach Materials: Banner/Signage and Bookmark

Kathy Richardson informed the board that the SAB bookmarks have been printed and are ready for distribution. Megan Poindexter discussed the progress on the design for the SAB banner and asked the board for ideas on images to use. There was discussion on using a cityscape. Simran Sethi also suggested a simple focus on people, planet and profit.

Local Foods Policy Council Update

Daniel Poull informed the board that the Local Foods Policy Council completed their goal setting session. Their two main goals are: 1. support for local producers and 2. education and outreach. The council will continue to meet twice a month.

Finalize Details for Goal Setting Meeting

Matt Lehrman reminded the board that the SAB goal setting session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10th at 5:00 pm. The meeting will take place at the Fire Station #5 located at 1911 Stewart Avenue. The board survey questions are due Friday, March 5th. If the board knows of any other stakeholders they would like to include in the feedback request email, please submit stakeholder contact information to Kathy Richardson. The board will receive a summary of all the citizen and stakeholder comments prior to their goal setting session.

Action: Daniel Poull will email the Local Foods Policy Council members and ask them to submit feedback to SAB.

Earth Day Parade and Celebration Update

Kathy Richardson informed the board that the City's Waste Reduction and Recycling Division will host the Earth Day Celebration at South Park on Saturday, April 17th from 11:30 am to 4 pm. To get the celebration started, KU Environs is organizing this year's Parade for the Earth which begins at 11 am and travels south on Massachusetts Street.

Board members signed up to volunteer for the Earth Day event as follows:

- Set up volunteers (8am-10am): Sarah Hill-Nelson, Matt Lehrman, Andrea Repinsky, Chad Luce
-Helping set up tables, chairs, posting signs, other tasks as assigned
- Break down volunteers (4pm-5pm): Daniel Poull, Megan Poindexter, Brian Sifton
-Helping take down tables, chairs, collecting recycling bins, other tasks as assigned
- Parade Volunteers (10:30am-11:30am): Eileen Horn, Simran Sethi (Alternate: Daniel Poull)
-Carrying Parade for the Earth banner in front of all parade entries

Motion and second to have a Sustainability Advisory Board booth at the Earth Day Celebration (Poindexter/Sifton). Motion was passed unanimously.

WRR Update

Kathy Richardson emailed SAB and briefly discussed the WRR January report (see attached). The Compost Sale (March 18-20), Earth Day Parade and Celebration (April 17th), and the Electronics Recycling Event (May 15th) have all been confirmed.

Kathy Richardson mentioned that Deffenbaugh Industries has registered with the City to provide curbside recycling service to Lawrence residents. Deffenbaugh is currently working on a marketing plan. Their timeline to start collecting recyclables is mid-March. Their customers will receive a 65 gallon cart for single stream recycling (all paper, plastics #1-7, steel, aluminum but no glass). The board discussed concerns regarding Deffenbaugh's new service impact on the current smaller hauler. There was also discussion about Deffenbaugh's One Earth recycling bins at the schools and several other locations in town. Currently schools and neighborhood associations are encouraging neighbors to drop off recycling at the schools as a fundraiser because Deffenbaugh will pay them per ton of material collected. Staff has approached the school district USD 497 to see if they would allow the City to post the locations of the Deffenbaugh recycling bins on the City website. The district prefers not to advertise the locations due to a variety of concerns.

At the City Commission meeting last week, staff found out that there is another company Two Rivers Company that is providing curbside recycling service in Lawrence. Staff is working on contacting them and encouraging their company to register with the City.

Miscellaneous Announcements and/or Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting (goal setting session): March 10th, 2010 at 5:00 pm at City's Fire Station #5 located at 1911 Stewart Avenue

Next meeting (regular board meeting): April 14th, 2010 at 5:30 pm at the City's Solid Waste Annex North building located 320 NE Industrial Lane

Attachments:

- Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report



Waste Reduction and Recycling Division Report for the Sustainability Advisory Board (2/10/10)

RECYCLING PROGRAM REPORT

OLD CORRUGATED CONTAINERS (OCC)

Cardboard	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	103.10	\$11,341.10
Prior YTD	109.09	\$2,080.50
Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2010:	\$110.00	Avg. price/ton thru Jan. 2009: \$19.07

OLD NEWSPAPERS (ONP)

Newspaper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	24.32	\$1,823.63
Prior YTD	59.42	\$1,380.86
Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2010:	\$75.00	Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2009: \$23.24

OFFICE WASTE PAPER (SOP)

Sorted Office Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	0.55	\$88.00
Prior YTD	0	\$0
Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2010:	\$160.00	Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2009: N/A

MIXED WASTE PAPER (MIX)

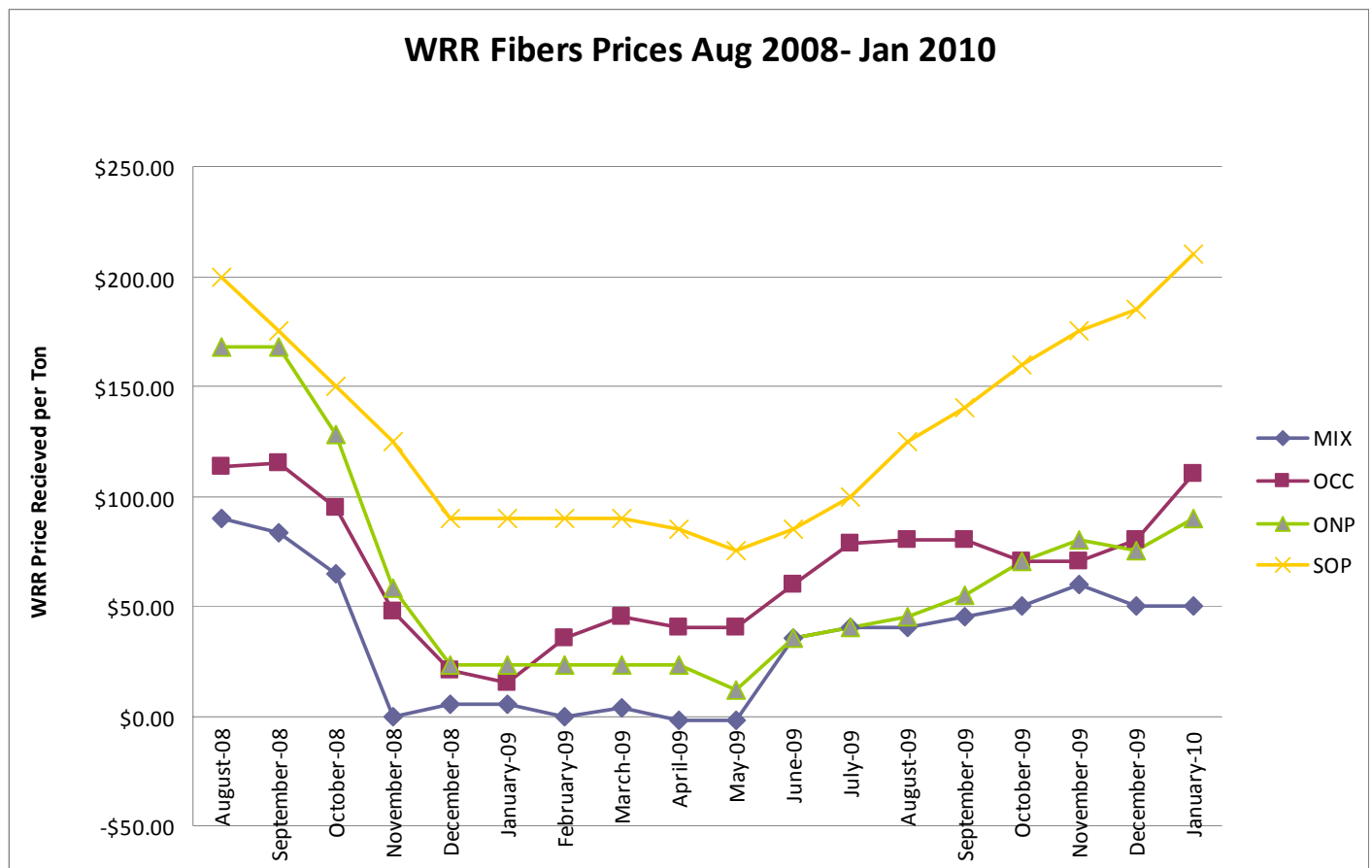
Mixed Paper	Tons	Revenue
Current YTD	36.81	\$2,323.65
Prior YTD	13.11	\$65.53
Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2010:	\$63.13	Avg. Price/ton thru Jan. 2009: \$5.00

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>TONS</u>	<u>REVENUE</u>
		164.77	\$15,576.28
Prior YTD		181.61	\$3,526.89

Market for recyclable materials improved significantly

A sharp economic downturn at the end of 2008 affected the paper recycling market well into 2009. The Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR) Division reported that the price per ton of recyclables collected by the City was at a historical low. Over the past few months, the pricing for recyclables has improved significantly. For example, the Division received \$115/ton in September 2008 for Corrugated Cardboard. By January of 2009 the price for cardboard had dropped to \$20/ton and it is currently (January 2010) selling for \$110/ ton.

The graph below shows the price that the WRR Division received per ton of Mixed Paper (MIX), Corrugated Cardboard (OCC), Newspaper (ONP) and Sorted Office Paper (SOP) from August 2008 through January 2010.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND SMALL QUANTITY GENERATOR (SQG) PROGRAM REPORT

Month	HHW Drop-Offs	Battery Bags in Mail	Appt No Show	Home-bound	Saturday Collection	Abandoned Waste	Orphan Waste	SQG Inventory	SQG Drop-off	Product Reuse Appt
January	112	2	4	0	0	2	0	11	9	4
February										
March										
April										
May										
June										
July										
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
TOTAL	112	2	4	0	0	2	0	11	9	4

YARD TRIMMINGS COLLECTION AND COMPOST PROGRAM REPORT

The Christmas Tree-Cycling collection took place this season on the following 3 Mondays: Dec. 28, Jan. 4 and Jan. 11. On December 28th crews collected 188 trees (2.35 tons), January 4th 1,324 trees (16.55 tons), and January 11th 808 trees (10.1 tons). Residential yard trimmings collection will resume on Monday, March 1, 2010, weather permitting.

Based on 2009's high usage volume of lawn care companies, staff time involved in monitoring usage and reporting and processing the material dropped off, and the cost of gate and fobs, the division will charge a \$100 annual sign up fee per business in 2010 which includes one fob and \$25 per additional fob.

<u>Yard Trimmings Collection: Year To Date</u>		Residential Tons Collected Curbside	Commercial Tons Received	Other Tons Received (Christmas Trees)	Total Tons This Month	Average Preferred Container Compliance
	2009 TOTAL	11,096.63	2,011.9	30.41	13,138.94	99.5%
2010	January	NA	0.8	26.65 (2,132 trees)	27.45	NA
	February					
	March					
	April					
	May					
	June					
	July					
	August					
	September					
	October					
	November					
	December					
	2010 TOTAL	NA	0.8	26.65	27.45	NA