

City of Lawrence
Solid Waste Task Force
Thursday, June 30, 2011 (6:00 PM) Meeting Minutes
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Aron Cromwell, Billy Beeson, Suzi Cammon, Joe Harkins, Sam Porritt, Daniel Poull, Ralph Reed, Charlie Sedlock, Jeff Severin, Christine Tomlin
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Dan Wethington
STAFF PRESENT:	Dave Corliss, Tammy Bennett, Eileen Horn, Craig Pruett
GUESTS PRESENT:	
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Paul Davis, Dorothy Hoyt-Reed, Kristine Hicks

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Mayor Aron Cromwell

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Motion and second to approve minutes from [June 15, 2011](#) meeting (Poull/Reed)
Vote was passed unanimously.

CITIZEN SURVEY INFORMATION ON SOLID WASTE SERVICES (David Corliss).

David Corliss provided summary of survey information. Staff provided the summary document as well as an excerpt regarding Solid Waste services only. ETC completed the scientifically conducted survey regarding citizen satisfaction with city services. Overall, citizens are highly satisfied with services. Overall, the City of Lawrence improved in scoring over 2007 when the same survey was conducted. Comparable surveys in metro area declined. There is always room for improvement in all categories. Specific areas of concern identified by citizens included street maintenance and growth management. Solid Waste questions were provided in more detail. Task force members are encouraged to read the full citizen survey, at http://www.lawrenceks.org/2011_citizen_survey.

Discussion among task force members about survey data and other communities, such as:

- Is there a way to drill down in the data to understand the elements of dissatisfaction (for instance with the lower HHW numbers)? Several committee members discussed feedback they heard about the inconvenience of the appointment system, and suggested that higher ratings may be achievable with a drop-off day each week, in addition to appointments.
- How does Lawrence compare to other communities on specific solid waste questions? More data is available in the survey document and the City Manager highlighted some of the comparisons. In general, Lawrence scores are higher and moving more positively than the benchmark data provided by the citizen survey. Some interest was expressed in reviewing survey data for communities that are specific peers to Lawrence, rather than aggregated data.
- What is the meaning of the "neutral" scores, or white bars? Is it a level of satisfaction, understanding, or awareness?

Conclusions of citizen survey review:

- From a process perspective, the task force needs to focus on identifying the bigger picture issues related to the charge of the committee.
- The task force would like to receive the recycling survey completed in 2008.
- Rather than in-depth analysis on other communities' data, the task force should include in their overall recommendations a management system for collecting and comparing data over

time, understanding the value of keeping good data on how the city is progressing as changes are made.

OPEN DISCUSSION FOR TASK FORCE regarding process, structure, goals, calendar

Mayor specifically outlined the purpose of the task force as outlined in the resolution. The Solid Waste Task Force will:

- Articulate / document the services currently provided through solid waste user fees.
- Articulate issues driving recommendations for service changes.
- Consider solid waste services that may be included in the long-range plan for the Lawrence community (such as, variable rate pricing, curbside recycling, yard trimmings collection, bulky item collection, and so on).
- Seek community-wide input in the options for desired solid waste services.
- Develop recommendations for the Lawrence City Commission regarding implementation of services or changes to existing services.
- Propose timelines and educational outreach to achieve recommended service levels.

After significant, detailed discussions, the following items were identified as "BIG BUCKET" issues that the task force will make recommendations on:

- Containerization and increased automation
- Curbside recycling
- Variable rate pricing
- Communication to citizens
- Hazardous waste programs

Below is a summary of some of the key points that should be captured in the process:

Containerization and automation	Containerization is the first step in the process of increasing automation. There is very strong support among the task force to move toward containerization. Movement toward containerization is a consensus item. Automation for solid waste services will most likely be accomplished as equipment is replaced. All current equipment is semi-automated. One of the goals regarding this element is worker safety first, and eventual cost savings from reduced workers' compensation. Additionally, containerization assists the move to variable rate pricing, and provides a more favorable aesthetic if all citizens' service is identical.
Curbside recycling	The current system is "fractured" and "disorganized," partly because the community has not developed clear vision / agreement on whether services should be subscription based or mandatory. There has been an evolution of values and economics driving motivations for recycling. There is also a difference between recycling more and wasting less. The task force needs to have further conversations to move toward consensus on issues such as subscription / mandatory, one provider / multiple providers, and what is the appropriate City role in the process.
Variable rate pricing	Variable rate pricing would establish different rates based on volume of trash for disposal. Variable rate pricing would include consideration of fees for bulky items and large volumes of debris at the curb. More information regarding variable rate structures is needed to evaluate the applicability of such systems to this community. The task force requested models and information from other communities.
Communication to public	A communication plan and goals should be developed to ensure community is educated on services, goals, and processes. There was some consensus among task force members that increased communication and outreach alone may improve satisfaction with services.

Hazardous waste	The convenience of the Household Hazardous Waste program must be evaluated. There was significant anecdotal discussion on the appointment system and frustration of users. Multiple members expressed desire to extend services to include one day per week drop-off, without appointments, even if citizens had to wait a while in line.
Who provides services	Once the vision and recommendations of services is determined, then the task force will consider who is providing the services. The recommendations from the task force regarding provision of services will depend upon cost estimates for each of the services. The task force recognizes the conversation about privatization of some services was one of the factors in developing the SWTF.

Next steps include:

1. Task force prioritization of the big bucket items, and developing a process to review each.
2. Task force will analyze and make recommendations on each area, including
 - a. Articulating the goal (e.g., public health and safety, community values).
 - b. Understanding effectiveness and value related to the service.
 - c. Recommending what the longer term vision for the element may be, as well as intermediate phases and/or action steps.
 - d. Considering whether the service is appropriate for out-sourcing or who may best provide.
3. Receive additional information from staff regarding:
 - a. Costs of containerization.
 - b. Variable rate pricing models and how they work, citing lessons learned in other communities.
 - c. Information on structure of other HHW programs in our region.

Other items:

The City Manager informed members of the City Manager's Recommended Budget that will be released on Friday, July 1, 2011. It will include a 2.7% rate increase for solid waste and a small glass recycling program. The glass recycling program recommendation will include a consolidation point and four drop off locations in the community. Ripple Glass will pick up materials from the consolidation point.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Topics
July 14, 2011	Open discussion – 2 hours
July 28, 2011	
July (TBD), 2011	Hamm's Overview (pre-tour explanation) Hamm Landfill tour
	Future meeting topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRF tour • Input from stakeholders (Deffenbaugh, other recyclers, etc.) • Second public listening session

Note – monthly scheduling for summer due to vacation plans for members.