

City of Lawrence

**Solid Waste Task Force**

June 8, 2011 (6:00 PM) Public Meeting Notes

City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Aron Cromwell, Suzi Cammon, Joe Harkins, Sam Porritt, Daniel Poull, Ralph Reed, Charlie Sedlock
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Billy Beeson, Jeff Severin, Christine Tomlin, Dan Wethington
STAFF PRESENT:	Dave Corliss (staff liaison), Kenny Albin, Tammy Bennett, Michael Eglinski, Michelle Gundy, Eileen Horn, Craig Pruett, Kathy Richardson, Chuck Soules
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Nick Benson (Sustainability Advisory Board - youth in government), Joanne Bergman, Tom Coffman (Deffenbaugh Industries), Paul Davis, James Dunn, Nancy Dunn, Armand Enclarde (DRAW Services), Kristine Hicks, Sarah Hill-Nelson (Sustainability Advisory Board), Dorothy Hoyt-Reed, Beth Johnson (Sustainability Advisory Board), Jeff Joseph (Jeff's Curbside Recycling), Bo Killough (12 <sup>th</sup> & Haskell Bargain Center), Linda Klinker (Cans for the Community), Matt Lehrman (Sustainability Advisory Board), Chad Luce (Sustainability Advisory Board), Will Lunn (Cans for the Community), E. Wendell McGaugh (Cans for the Community), Bill Mitchell, Jim Mullins (Americans for Prosperity), Dale Nimz, Ellen Paulsen, Megan Poindexter (Sustainability Advisory Board), Christoph Rosenthal, Laura Routh, Matt Sanderson, Chris Scafe (Sunflower Curbside Recycling), Simran Sethi (Sustainability Advisory Board), Craig Shultz (Central Fiber), Albert Stutzman (Wal-Mart)

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Mayor Aron Cromwell welcomed and thanked all those present for attending the Solid Waste Task Force public input meeting. He reminded the public that the task force is seeking community-wide input on options for solid waste and recycling services. The goal for the task force is to develop recommendations to the City Commission by March 2012 regarding the long-term solid waste service options. Public input is an important part of this process. Feedback may also be submitted to the task force through an online form available at [www.lawrenceks.org/swtf/feedback](http://www.lawrenceks.org/swtf/feedback).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Laura Routh**, Lawrence citizen, stated that she supports variable volume based pricing for residential trash collection. This would encourage recycling and promote waste reduction. Laura recently conducted research on privatization for her graduate class. Her opinion is that wholesale outsourcing of solid waste collection is a bad idea for Lawrence, but it may be a beneficial to privatize or create a public-private partnership for a city-wide curbside recycling service. Laura stated that Lawrence needs mandatory, community-wide curbside recycling. She would also like to see the city's Household Hazardous Waste Facility offer regularly scheduled open hours.

**Linda Klinker**, Cans for the Community chair, informed the task force about her non-profit organization which for the past 6 years has been recycling aluminum cans and donating all proceeds from recycling to other local non-profit organizations. Cans are collected from “can houses” which are recycling drop-off bins, businesses, tailgaters at the KU home football games, and at other community events. Cans for the Community has recycled over 5.5 million cans which generated \$71,000 in donations. This organization has received tremendous community support and Linda thanked all those involved. She also encouraged the task force to keep in mind organizations such as Cans for the Community as the task force begins to draft recommendations on long term plans for solid waste and recycling in Lawrence. Linda distributed a [brochure](#) to the task force.

**Jim Mullens**, Americans for Prosperity member, distributed a couple [documents](#) to the task force. Jim mentioned the Yellow Pages Test that says if a service can be found in the phone book then government should not produce it in-house. Jim encouraged the task force to consider building a business case that will include the lowest cost options as well as what is best for the taxpayers of Lawrence. Reasons for building a business case are cost savings, access to expertise, better quality, improved risk management, innovation, and timeliness. A task force member asked him about the information he provided in the handout and Jim clarified that the information is a compilation of several different sources. Jim will provide the task force links to his sources.

**Chris Scafe**, Sunflower Curbside Recycling owner, stated he has approximately 400 customers and that there are five other curbside recycling providers in Lawrence. He mentioned that having multiple curbside recycling haulers is not an efficient system and he believes there should be a single curbside recycling hauler in Lawrence (i.e. the municipality or a local company providing local labor). Chris prefers that the City provide the curbside recycling service and said it is important to keep the money and labor in Lawrence. He noted that the money paid to Deffenbaugh Industries for curbside recycling is going out of town.

**Armond Enclarde**, DRAW Services owner, informed the task force of his valet door to door trash and recycling pick up service for apartment complexes and multi-family units. Currently they only service one apartment complex, The Connection, but Armond is talking to other apartment owners and managers. DRAW Services works in partnership with Deffenbaugh Industries to recycle.

**Craig Shutlz**, Central Fiber, informed the task force of his business in Wellsville, Kansas. Central Fiber recycles paper fibers and repurposes them into new products such as insulation and erosion control products. He stated that if there is a private-public partnership opportunity, Central Fiber would be interested. Craig also mentioned that they do not buy fibers from programs that collect recyclables as a single stream with glass.

**Bo Killough**, 12<sup>th</sup> and Haskell Bargain Center owner, stated that he currently collects recyclables as a service to Lawrence residents. He said it takes a lot of tons to make a recycling program work and mentioned it will be hard for the City to operate a recycling program with all other parties still operating their programs. Bo also talked about glass recycling and asked if the City was planning to help Ripple Glass provide a glass recycling service in Lawrence would the City also help all the other organizations in providing their recycling service in Lawrence.

**Chad Luce**, Sustainability Advisory Board member, stated he personally supports variable rate pricing system for solid waste because it would encourage more recycling.

**Matt Sanderson**, KU journalism student, stated he also supports charging residents for solid waste services based on how much trash they generate.

Public meeting concluded at 7:00 p.m.