

City of Lawrence
Solid Waste Task Force
May 4, 2011 (6:00 PM) Meeting Minutes
City Commission Room, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mayor Aron Cromwell, Suzi Cammon, Joe Harkins, Sam Porritt, Ralph Reed, Charlie Sedlock, Jeff Severin, Christine Tomlin
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Billy Beeson, Daniel Poull, Dan Wethington
STAFF PRESENT:	Dave Corliss (staff liaison), Tammy Bennett, Michael Eglinski, Eileen Horn, Craig Pruett, Kathy Richardson, Chuck Soules
GUESTS PRESENT:	
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Mark Emert, Barbara Fenton, Jim Mullens, Laura Routh

CALL MEETING TO ORDER - Mayor Aron Cromwell

Motion and second to approve the [April 20, 2011 meeting minutes](#) (Sedlock/Porritt).
Vote was passed unanimously.

STAFF PRESENTATION ON COMPARISON OF OTHER COMMUNITIES

[Presentation](#) from Kathy Richardson, Waste Reduction and Recycling Operations Supervisor, reviewing community comparison of solid waste and recycling services. Part of the purpose of this discussion is to determine what other information the task force might be interested in. Staff is available to research and provide the task force with additional information as requested.

The presentation included a brief overview of the auditor list of Lawrence-like communities based on overall population, population under the age of 18, per capita income, and median year housing was built. There was discussion on factors to consider when comparing solid waste and recycling services across these Lawrence-like communities. For example, there may be great differences in the regulatory environment, tipping fee, and landfill capacity.

A detailed [community comparison chart](#) was created using solid waste and recycling information from the same communities the City uses each year for solid waste rate comparisons. Staff noted that many of these communities are in transition, i.e. starting recycling programs, looking into automation for fleet, or implementing a variable rate pricing system.

The presentation also included information on waste characterization studies and waste reduction and recycling goals. A waste characterization is a breakdown, by weight, of the municipal solid waste materials generated (before recycling). A comparison between the EPA waste characterization studies from 1995 and 2009 show that the top three materials generated by weight continue to be paper, yard trimmings, and food scraps (60% in 1995 and 56% in 2009). The City of Lawrence waste characterization study completed in 1995 produced similar results with 61% of the municipal solid waste generated composed of paper, yard trimmings, and food waste.

OPEN DISCUSSION FOR TASK FORCE

Future guest speakers. There was discussion about future guest speakers such as consultants and/or professional firms that assist with solid waste and can discuss key trends in solid waste management. Mayor Cromwell indicated that this is something the task force can discuss at a future meeting. Other guest speaker suggestions were City of Olathe and Johnson County staff. The task force members were in agreement and Mayor Cromwell confirmed directing staff to invite staff from City of Olathe and Johnson County to a future meeting.

Understanding the process of the task force. Sam Porritt shared with the group that he emailed Mayor Cromwell and Dave Corliss a few suggestions for the task force. He wanted to understand the process of the task force and suggested that a roadmap be laid out. He also pointed out that at some point the task force needs to get down to the 3 or 4 or 5 specific questions that they want to focus on as a task force. That might be the place where discussion with consultants can really help the task force.

Motivation to initiate this task force. Suzi Cammon asked what motivated the City Commission to initiate this task force. Was there dissatisfaction with the current service? Was it the desire to implement a variable rate system? Or recycling system? Mayor Cromwell stated that there were lots of opinions and motivations. For example, he wants to make sure the City of Lawrence is providing the service as efficiently and effectively as possible. There were also conversations about public versus private service as well as conversations about increasing tipping fees.

Comments from audience. Jim Mullens suggested that the task force consider inviting Deffenbaugh Industries to speak to the group.

FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS FROM TASK FORCE MEMBERS AT APRIL 20, 2011

Tammy Bennett mentioned two questions asked by task force members and follow up information:

1. Solid Waste fund balance forward for 2011: \$2,438,735
2. GPS initial purchase cost: Solid waste (\$6,825), Streets (\$9,690), and Utilities (\$6,680) = Total 23,195

PLANNING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Topics
May 17, 2011 TUESDAY	Early a.m. Field trip / operational tour for city functions Look at downtown alley service, residential alley service, residential curbside services, some facilities
June 8, 2011	Public listening session General discussion among task force members
July __, 2011	Hamm Landfill tour
	Future meeting topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MRF tour• Second public listening session

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

FIELD TRIP – Solid Waste Collections – TUESDAY, MAY 17th, 2011

6:25 - 6:30 a.m.	1140 Haskell Avenue, Solid Waste Building, east of gas island Gather and prepare to leave, load 12 passenger bus
6:30 a.m.	Leave Solid Waste office
6:35 - 6:55 a.m.	Downtown alleys Walk along with crew through 1.5 block section of main downtown
6:55 a.m.	Travel to residential alley location
7:00 - 7:15 a.m.	Residential alley location (Craig Pruett to determine specific alley location)
7:15 a.m.	Travel to residential curbside location
7:20 - 7:30 a.m.	Residential curbside location (Craig Pruett to determine specific location)
7:30 a.m.	Return to solid waste office
7:40 a.m.	Tour yard (drive through) and office (walk through)
7:50 a.m.	Tour complete
Optional	Equipment in yard – will have equipment for members to look at if interested: rear loader, front loader, and roll-off
	Maximum estimated time: 1.5 hours

Staff will send out email to all SWTF members regarding an optional tour in May 23rd of the city's SWAN (fiber recycling operations, maintenance), HHW, and Compost Facilities.