

City of Lawrence

Solid Waste Task Force

October 26, 2011 (6:00 PM) Meeting Minutes

Jayhawk Room, Fire-Medical Administration Building, 1911 Stewart Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Billy Beeson, Suzi Cammon, Joe Harkins, Daniel Poull, Charlie Sedlock, Jeff Severin, Christine Tomlin, Dan Wethington
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Mayor Aron Cromwell, Sam Porritt, Ralph Reed
STAFF PRESENT:	Dave Corliss, Tammy Bennett, Michael Eglinski, Eileen Horn, Craig Pruett, Kathy Richardson
PUBLIC PRESENT:	Tom Coffman, Paul Davis, Kris Hicks, Chad Lawhorn, Jim Mullens

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Dave Corliss

REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

Motion and second to approve the [September 28, 2011 meeting minutes](#) (Poull/Severin).
Vote was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ROUGH DRAFT OF TASK FORCE REPORT

Tammy Bennett gave an overview of the [rough draft Solid Waste Task Force report](#). The task force members focused on the Executive Summary of the report and provided feedback to staff.

The task force discussed the following:

Introduction and Goals (page 1): The task force discussed adding an introduction to the report that highlight's the high level of satisfaction with residential trash service (i.e. recent citizen survey) and an understanding that the task force recommendations are for continuous improvement in solid waste management. The task force agreed they are not contemplating a dramatic change to a system that is working.

There was also discussion on the graphs. Jeff Severin asked if the two graphs represented previous recommendations from the Sustainability Advisory Board (recycling rate goal) and the Climate Protection Task Force (pounds per person per day goal). Tammy Bennett mentioned that the City of Lawrence has not formally adopted any recycling rate or pounds per person per day goals. She also clarified that the graphs on this report are not setting a specific number goal but instead is comparing the City's efforts overtime – a directional goal: recycling rate increases over time and pounds per person per day decreases over time. Charlie Sedlock added that when comparing Lawrence to other communities using the pounds per person per day there has to be an economic activity or GDP component.

Daniel Poull would like the report to highlight the education (i.e. presentations, reports, public input) that the task force members received over the year. This could be a supplemental document which demonstrates credibility of the task force to make recommendations regarding long-term solid waste service options for Lawrence.

Executive Summary – Residential Solid Waste Services

Motion and second to authorize staff to carry forward these first two bullets as written to the next draft of the report (Harkins/Poull). Vote was passed unanimously.

- The City of Lawrence will continue to provide weekly collection of residential solid waste to ensure protection of public health, safety, and environment.
- Increase automation for residential trash collection by:
 - Providing roll-out trash carts for residential services, which can be utilized immediately with the current fleet of semi-automated trucks.
 - Increasing automation of trucks for residential service collection as current fleet units are replaced.

The task force members agreed they need to have a lengthy conversation about variable rate pricing before they move forward with a recommendation. At tonight's meeting they skipped review of the third bullet and requested information on variable rate pricing from staff for the next task force meeting in November. Dave Corliss recommended discussion of how much change the task force wants to impose at one time.

- Transition residential rate system to a variable rate pricing structure in a phased approach.
 - Initial implementation of cart system (years one through three) would focus on cart service for a standard residential rate.
 - Additional fees would be charged for additional carts on an escalating scale (\$2.00 per month for a second cart; \$3.00 per month for the third cart; \$4.00 per month for the fourth cart).
 - Bulk item service (and up to five tires) would continue to be provided for no charge to minimize dumping and visual blight.
 - Collection of excessive trash piles will be charged to the resident or property owner on a per event basis.
 - Transition to base service variable rate pricing (modest differentiation based on cart sizes) in year four.

There was discussion on mandatory recycling. The task force agreed that as they discuss curbside recycling it is a system that all residents would pay for in their solid waste base fee (mandatory pay) but it is unlikely that the City will have trash "police" looking through trash carts in search of recyclables (not mandatory participation). The report should be clear that it is a mandatory pay, voluntary participation program.

Joe Harkins would like the report to state that the task force is aware of the implications of implementing a city-wide curbside recycling service. He added it will disrupt current curbside recycling haulers and affect services provided by the recycling centers in Lawrence. The task force discussed adding this to the body of the report and not to the Executive Summary.

There was also discussion on whether or not the City should develop a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). The task force generally feels that the City should not pursue a MRF but a couple task force members stated it may be worth exploring.

Feedback from the task force for the fourth bullet included format changes for easier readability, add "if fiscally prudent and sustainable" to the first sentence, and clarify that the Request for Proposals has two alternatives (turn-key operations and material processing only).

Motion and second to direct staff to make changes to the fourth bullet as discussed tonight and add a section in the report that states the task force understands the impacts of implementing a city-wide curbside recycling program but are looking at the overall best outcome for the majority of Lawrence citizens (Wethington/Harkins). Vote was passed unanimously.

- Implement city-wide single-stream curbside recycling if fiscally feasible. To evaluate costs and opportunities, a Request for Proposals for single-stream curbside recycling will be solicited that separately evaluates collection and processing components. In other words, companies will be asked to submit proposals for turn-key operations (company provided collection and material processing) and material processing only (which would allow municipal collection of materials).

Dave Corliss informed the task force that the City recently sent out a Request for Proposals to create additional glass recycling drop-off options. Staff received two proposals back and the City Commission will soon be reviewing the staff recommendation to award the project to Ripple Glass.

Motion and second to authorize staff to carry forward the fifth bullet as written to the next draft of the report (Cammon/Sedlock).

- Promote adequate number of drop-off points for glass, if material is not accepted in single-stream curbside collection system.

Motion and second to authorize staff to carry forward the sixth bullet as written to the next draft of the report (Cammon/Wethington). Vote was passed unanimously. (Note: task force would like to move this bullet from #6 to #4 in the next draft of the report.)

- The City of Lawrence will continue to provide weekly collection of yard trimmings to keep materials out of landfill waste stream.

A few task force members asked questions on how the collection of vegetative food waste would work. Joe Harkins mentioned that this recommendation seems more of an operational decision and not a policy decision. By making a recommendation, it may help staff to move toward the goal. Feedback from the task force for the seventh bullet included replacing the word "beginning" with "examining" and adding "as part of existing residential collection of yard trimmings".

Motion and second to direct staff to make changes to the seventh bullet as discussed tonight (Wethington/Cammon). Vote was passed unanimously.

- Increase diversion of organic materials from the waste stream by:
 - Focusing education, and outreach on backyard composting of both yard trimmings and food waste.
 - Beginning collection of vegetative food waste at the curb for residential customers (same trucks, same routes, same processing as yard trimmings).

At tonight's meeting the task force did not make a motion on the eighth bullet below and instead requested a presentation from staff on the City's household hazardous waste program at the next task force meeting in November.

- Develop long-range plan for sustainable household hazardous waste program, balancing needs for fiscal responsibility and customer convenience. Issues that must be addressed include adequate physical facilities, access, staffing, and ability to staff for open hours that may not require appointments.

The last recommendation under residential solid waste services has not yet been defined because it needs further discussion. The task force will discuss outreach and education at a future meeting.

- {place holder text only for recommendations by SWTF on outreach, education, and other services}

The City Manager noted there is a section on commercial solid waste services that the task force may wish to discuss at a future meeting. Billy Beeson mentioned he would like the task force to receive information on Construction and Demolition (C&D) recycling.

Joe Harkins stated and all task force members agreed that motions tonight do not represent the final decisions of the Solid Waste Task Force. All motions passed tonight were in the context of providing direction to staff to keep these items as written or modify these items for the next draft of the report.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Date	Topics
Wednesday, November 16, 2011	Location: KU Center for Design Research, 2544 Westbrooke Circle. Review edits to Executive Summary of the Draft Report. Discussion on variable rate pricing and household hazardous waste program.
Monday, December 12, 2011	Location: Jayhawk Room, 1911 Stewart Avenue. Discussion on recommendations.

Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.