

City of Lawrence

**Solid Waste Task Force**

September 28, 2011 (6:00 PM) Meeting Minutes

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

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

---

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** - Mayor Aron Cromwell

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES**

Motion and second to approve the [September 12, 2011 meeting minutes](#) (Poull/Severin).  
Vote was passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF TASK FORCE**

The Mayor indicated that tonight's objective was to identify and discuss elements to include in the Solid Waste Task Force report. At the next meeting the task force will be reviewing a rough draft of the report prepared by staff. The report will be a series of recommendations. The task force discussed the following:

**Containerization for trash.** At a previous meeting, the task force reached consensus on recommending containerization for trash collection. A couple questions discussed were regarding the number of different carts sizes the City could offer and what those sizes would be. A few task force members also stressed that there may be elderly citizens that could not handle a cart of any size. A system with some flexibility would be best. Several task force members mentioned leaving the details on number of carts, cart sizes, and special service exceptions up to City staff to figure out. In the report, the task force would like to articulate expectations for high level of customer service and also highlight the reasons for containerization (i.e. first step in the process of increasing automation, worker safety, potential cost savings from reduced workers' compensation).

**Containerization for yard trimmings.** Currently the City collects residential yard trimmings set out in cans, City carts, and compostable paper bags. The task force agreed that they would likely not recommend that all yard trimmings be placed into one

mandatory cart. The task force wants to encourage participation of this program and not limit how much material a resident may set out.

**Variable rate pricing for trash.** Variable rate pricing would establish different rates based on volume of trash set out for disposal. The task force agreed that they need to have a separate discussion on whether to recommend a variable rate pricing structure and how it would work. The Mayor reiterated that a variable rate pricing system would not be for yard trimmings or recyclables, only for trash. If the task force decides to recommend variable rate pricing for residential trash disposal, then they noted that they would need to discuss a system for collection of bulky items and associated fees. One example discussed was the option of continuing to take bulk items by appointment, and/or provide a very limited number of stickers for additional items or excess trash per household.

**Curbside recycling.** Lots of questions arose in this discussion. Does the task force recommend city-wide curbside recycling or continue with the status quo (i.e. offering multiple outlets)? If the task force recommends city-wide curbside recycling, then who would provide this service? If the task force recommends that the City begin collection of recyclables at the curb, where would the City drop off the recyclables? The Mayor advised the task force to consider the possibility of recommending a Request for Proposals (RFP) for curbside recycling to compare cost and service of other companies. The task force would also like the City to evaluate costs of implementing a municipally operated curbside recycling program. Also discussed were the following items:

- Jeff Severin and others commented that it would not make sense for the City to build a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). There are a couple established MRFs in this region and a couple more proposed to be built in the near future.
- If an outside vendor is selected to provide curbside recycling in Lawrence, how would the City make sure the service is as high quality as the current solid waste collection service? Joe Harkins noted that it is a matter of setting standards and building financial incentives.
- The task force would like a process to be developed where the City can get a true cost comparison between companies submitting service proposals. The Mayor mentioned that the City Auditor could assist in analyzing the numbers.
- Joe Harkins suggested having two separate RFPs: one for the collection service and the other for MRF process (collection vs. process). Staff will begin looking for examples of RFPs from other communities for curbside recycling to share with the task force. An alternative would be to have a two-part RFP that covers two alternatives – a turn-key system and a process only system.
- How much is a curbside recycling program going to cost the community? This is the question Lawrence citizens frequently ask. Several task force members commented that they would like to review the cost of service before they decide to recommend curbside recycling as a mandatory program (mandatory pay, not mandatory participation).
- Charlie Sedlock added that a long-term strategy needs to be part of the report.

**Household hazardous waste program.** The task force will discuss possible changes to the Household Hazardous Waste program at a future meeting and they requested a staff presentation in order to better understand the program.

**Commercial services (trash services, recycling, food waste composting).** The task force will discuss commercial service elements at a future meeting. Daniel Poull said he would also like the task force to specifically address multi-family residences.

**Downtown recycling bins.** The Mayor shared with the task force that he has received various requests from citizens for recycling bins in the downtown area. This may be a topic for discussion.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

| Date                            | Topics  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| October 13, 2011                | CANCELLED   |
| Wednesday,<br>October 26, 2011  | Location: Jayhawk Room, 1911 Stewart Avenue<br>Discuss recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of an early draft report</li></ul> Discuss scheduling (different date/location) of next meeting |
| Wednesday,<br>November 16, 2011 | NEED TO ADDRESS SCHEDULING (different date or different location)   |
| Monday,<br>December 12, 2011    | Location: Jayhawk Room, 1911 Stewart Avenue<br>Discussion on recommendations.   |

**Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**