

**City of Hamilton**

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Hamilton City Hall, Room 264

Present:	Peter Hutton	Ron Speranzini	Deborah Wilson
	Greg Kraatz	Jim Sweetman	Grant Ranalli
	Elizabeth Wren		

Regrets:	Allan Freeman	Dan Rodrigues	Jack Freiburger
	Rose Killey	Paula Hamilton	Tom Thompson

Also Present: Pat Parker, Director of Operations Support
Jennifer DiDomenico, Manager of Policy and Programs
Ruta Morkunas, Policy/Program Analyst, Support Services Section
Two public members

Peter Hutton called the meeting to order. The Chair informed the group that he would like to work through the first part of the agenda quickly so they could move on to the scheduled discussion period.

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.
(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Greg Kraatz)

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes from the previous meeting – April 20, 2011

The minutes were approved as written.
(Moved by Greg Kraatz, seconded by Jim Sweetman)

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

Staff provided an update concerning the recent compost giveaways. Six compost giveaways were held over three weekends (2 per weekend) throughout the City. Two hundred and fifty tonnes of compost was distributed to residents and \$6,100.00 was raised for FoodShare.

4. Administrative Items

The chair reminded members that the August meeting is cancelled.

5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP) Review Update**a) Update workshop #2**

Comments from the second workshop will be prepared after the May 20, 2011 on-line and hard copy survey deadline. Ten people attended the second SWMMP Review workshop on April 28, 2011. Details of the SWMMP Review as well as the on-line survey are available at www.hamiltonwastereview.ca

6. Projects

a) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee (GLCC)

The minutes from the February 28, 2011 were circulated to the group prior to the meeting. There is nothing new to report.

b) SWMMP Steering Committee

A summary of the discussion from the May 11, 2011 SWMMP Steering Committee meeting was circulated to the group prior to the meeting.

c) Clean City Liaison Committee (CCLC)

A cigarette butt litter pilot project will be launched in June 2011. There will be two pilot areas - Pier 4 Bayfront Park and Gore Park. The intent of the pilot project is to determine the best approach to cleaning up and preventing cigarette butt litter. CCLC will also be collaborating with Public Health over the next six to nine months to move toward creating a successful smoke free public parks program. By-law will start enforcing the "no smoking in public parks" initiative through education in 2012.

d) Ad-hoc Festival and Special Event Recycling Committee

There is nothing new to report.

7. Operations

a) Annual Report

Staff announced that the 2010 Annual Report which provides updates concerning the City of Hamilton's 19 recommendations of the SWMMP has been published. It is available electronically on the City of Hamilton's website, in hard copy at all MSC's (Municipal Service Centres) and City Hall. This edition may be the last one as the SWMMP review is underway.

8. General Issues

a) Collections issues, progress of the SWMMP review, WRTF relationship to City Council

b) Strategies for citizen participation in the forthcoming Council workshop

c) Strategies for future community action

The above three issues were discussed to decide what membership should do and how they should proceed. Membership feels that Council prefer not to invest further capital toward the waste management system in view of other prevailing corporate pressures. Membership needs to think about how to bridge the gaps between what is wanted and what is being offered. They are hopeful that the General Issues Committee (GIC) will allow the SWMMP review to continue and that direction will be given to staff with respect to the Collection and MRF (Material Recycling Facility) processing procurement processes.

Program statistics concerning litter incidences seem to suggest that litter and illegal dumping are not much of an issue. It would be beneficial to know who is doing the dumping and why. Policing litter and illegal dumping is difficult as it includes numerous situations, such as: dumping garbage in school bins, commercial garbage dumped in ravines/embankments (on public property), filling up multi-residential dumpsters with waste generated elsewhere, leaving extra garbage bags in a multi-residential curbside pile, using public space garbage cans for more than casual litter disposal, etc. A report concerning illegal dumping is going forward as part of the Special Waste GIC.

Concerning the optimal collection schedule, is bi-weekly collection a viable choice? Diapers and pet waste are barrier items for bi-weekly garbage collection because they are garbage and not acceptable green cart items. Hamilton does not take these items – while other communities do – because our compost is a high quality product that generates revenue while other communities may landfill their compost because it isn't marketable.

The Chair asked Committee how – as a group – they want to proceed.

The purpose of the workshop with the GIC meeting is to discuss the SWMMP review, and to receive direction concerning the collection system review.

There is discussion around increasing the garbage container limit – a two plus discussion – no definite limit has been set yet. Membership does not want to take a step backward by increasing garbage limits but recognizes that we need to consider if a one container limit is increasing illegal dumping. Perhaps a three bag limit every two weeks could be considered?

Energy from Waste (EFW) was discussed. This type of system could generate revenue but waste may need to be imported from other communities to feed the process.

In summary, opinions around the table included the following:

- Participate in a plan to reach 65%: concentrate on diversion efforts.
- Not clear what role the WRTF will play on June 20th, maybe we want to say something collectively about where we want to be in 25 years.
- Illegal dumping, what is it and how much of a problem is it? Define illegal dumping and get real numbers that tell us what is happening in our community.
- Bi-weekly garbage collection; perhaps a three bag limit.
- Focussing on many issues now, can we focus on just a few?
- Multi-residential waste management costs: residents of condominiums may perceive that they are paying twice. Their waste management costs may be higher because they're not participating in diversion programs.

The Chair brought the discussion to a close by encouraging membership to contact as many people as possible and have them fill out the on-line survey.

Staff commented that during the master plan review, new diversion and disposal strategies will be considered. More attention will be paid to the multi-residential sector.

9. Public Discussion

There was no public discussion. (Public was included in the "General Issues" discussion.)

10. Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2011 in room 264 at Hamilton City Hall.

(Moved by Jim Sweetman, seconded by Ron Speranzini)

CARRIED

Copies to: All present

Regrets

SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List

Gerry Davis, General Manager, Public Works Department

Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Operations & Waste Management Division

City Clerks Division, c/o Andy Grozelle, Lisa Barroso