

**MINUTES OF THE
GREENSBORO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
JULY 24, 2013**

Members Present

Kay Brandon
Tony Davies
Bob Mays
Tom Phillips
Mark Taylor

Staff Present

Gail Hay
Jason Jernigan
Sheldon Smith
Dale Wyrick

Also present were Council members Nancy Vaughan and Jim Kee.

The Solid Waste Management Commission met on Wednesday, July 24, 2013 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the Field Operations Training Room.

Welcome/Chair & Vice-Chair Selection

Dale Wyrick welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for nominations or volunteers to serve as Chair and Vice Chair.

Mark Taylor stated that he would be happy to volunteer to serve as Chair.

Bob Mays nominated Mark Taylor as Chair, seconded by Tom Phillips. Mark Taylor was appointed Chair by unanimous vote. Mark Taylor stated that he felt the Commission should operate under Robert's Rules of Order.

Chair Taylor asked if there was a nomination or anyone wishing to serve as Vice Chair. Ms. Brandon stated that she felt this should be tabled until the August meeting to give an opportunity for other Commission members to speak and vote on electing a Vice Chair.

This matter was tabled until the August meeting.

Vendor Presentation Discussion

Dale Wyrick stated that he felt it was important to bring the Commission ideas brought to staff by companies that want to improve solid waste operations. It takes a lot of time and effort to screen these ideas and companies. He requested that the Commission assist with this process. He asked members to provide input regarding the best way for staff to handle these companies. He does not want the companies dismissed just because they might not have a local operation or their technology is not yet proven.

Tom Phillips stated that he felt the first task of the committee was to address methane gas. Dale Wyrick stated that there is a Waste to Energy Subcommittee from the Solid Waste Task Force and they are working with Field Operations to be part of the larger selection committee. Bob Mays stated that there is to be a short meeting today of that subcommittee to talk about the next steps in the RFP and then it would come back to the Commission.

Chair Taylor stated that in the interest of maintaining continuity between the subcommittee and the Commission, that committee should report at each monthly Commission meeting to make sure the Commission is being represented.

Tom Phillips asked how e-cycling differs from Ecoflo. Dale Wyrick stated that there is a similarity but in e-cycling generally takes recycling several steps further and actually shreds, grinds and brings recyclables down to a commodity level. Ecoflo simply receives recyclables and sends them on to someone else. He stated that there is a facility in College Park, Georgia, that is probably 6 months from getting their equipment together and they have invited people from Greensboro to visit the facility once it is ready for public view.

Bob Mays stated that he felt the Commission may want to consider forming a sub-committee to determine if it is suitable to have a waste and energy pilot project at the White Street landfill. MSW is not taken there, but it may be possible to make C & D into biodiesel, which is a new process that is looking for a place to set up a large building for that use. He presented a map showing the amount of property that could be developed into industrial at White Street. This is an area that is used for borrow dirt and is not being used as landfill. It is about 200 acres. This may be a good area to be used for some pilot projects. He stated that he would e-mail everyone his thoughts to be discussed at the next monthly meeting. He pointed out that he had found there is a group taking C&D and making synthetic fuel out of it.

Chair Taylor stated that in regard to solicitations, the Commission members should, at the August meeting, bring their ideas on a draft policy for vendor presentations, as it would be useful to have some kind of policy that either limits how often it is done, or the nature of it, or maybe prescribe some sort of pre-screening by staff.

Dale Wyrick stated that he was questioned about a company called Waste Zero, and they are basically a pay-as-you-throw company, which are popular in communities in the U.S. They make bags that they sell to the City and it puts a volume and monetary amount on what is thrown away, while all that is recycled is free. So there is no payment for what is recycled, but what is taken to the landfill is paid for. This would turn the current cost model for solid waste upside-down. Currently, there is a general fund and everything is funded through that general fund, and it is not an enterprise fund, but if you went to a pay-as-you-throw, you would not need to go back to that model where solid waste management became an enterprise fund.

Nancy Vaughan stated that we have to find greater outreach for recycling and there are certain groups that do it better than others. She feels the Commission needs to focus on those routes that are not recycling and explain what the financial benefit is.

Tom Phillips suggested that when staff is approached by some of these vendors, staff should ask them to send 10 copies of their initial proposal to be brought to the Commission for review and discussion. After review, if the Commission is interested in further discussion or has questions, they could be invited to appear before the Commission at some point in time. The Commission members agreed that this would be a good way to weed through some of the potential vendors.

Dale Wyrick stated that if he is approached by an entity that appears to have a promising technology, he would be more than happy to forward that information to the Commission members. He will also make a generic policy for the Commission to look over and can make a recommendation to the Commission with a short presentation.

Jim Kee pointed out that since 2009, there has been a \$16.2M dollar deficit and there is a \$10M dollar annual expenditure on waste disposal. The charge of the Commission and City Council representatives is to eliminate that \$10M dollar waste disposal bill and not open the landfill to household waste.

Dale Wyrick stated that the task force did a report and he has gone down each strategy on MSW, the recycling and the waste energy fronts and made a report showing the progress to date and he will send that report to each Commission member.

Jim Kee asked if there has been a meeting with High Point in regard to partnering with them and Greensboro. Dale Wyrick stated that he has spoken with them on a staff level and they are not interested in working together on this project.

Chair Taylor asked if staff could provide a Quarterly status report. Dale Wyrick stated that would certainly be doable and he would forward this information to Commission members.

In response to a question by Tom Phillips regarding City e-mail addresses for Commission members and a website, Dale Wyrick stated that they have not moved forward on that matter, as Nancy has been on vacation, but he would bring that up to her as soon as she returns.

Chair Taylor stated that in his notes for the next meeting there should be a review of the final report from the task force as an overview and look at the recommendations. He would also provide a draft of Robert's Rules to be reviewed by the Commission members and tweaked at the next meeting. Dale Wyrick is to start a draft of the vendor presentation policy and members are to bring ideas for that. Use of committees is something that needs to be discussed and a work plan outline.

Dale Wyrick asked that the Chair contact Nancy Lindemeyer to set up an agenda for the monthly meetings.

Other Business

Bob Mays stated that under the discussion about sub-committees, he has some information that he, Jim and Nancy prepared on White Street for Economic Development and he would like to share that with the group.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 28, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the 401 Patton Avenue Training Room location.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Taylor, Chair