

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY SUSTAINABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

April 18, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Council Member Sahli-Wells called the meeting of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Council Member
Meghan Sahli-Wells, Council Member

Staff Present: Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director
Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and
Operations Manager
Patrick Reynolds, Parks Manager
Eric Mirzaian, Maintenance Operations Manager
Helen Chin, Management Analyst

o0o

Order of the Agenda

No changes were made.

o0o

Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Council Member Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

Council Member Sahli-Wells announced that parking validation was available for those who drove to the meeting.

o0o

Agenda Items

Item A-1

Approval of Minutes for the November 28, 2017 Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting

THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 28, 2017 MEETING.

o0o

Item A-2

Discussion of Usage of Roundup for Weed Abatement

Patrick Reynolds, Parks Manager, provided background on the use of Roundup for weed abatement; discussed longevity of usage; compliance; controversy; scientific data; affects to bee and monarch butterfly populations; the urban environment vs. the agricultural industry; application; costs; other alternatives; household chemicals; actual risk; speculation; and he indicated that materials were made available.

Eric Mirzaian, Maintenance Operations Manager, discussed training and application; the Urban Forest; the requirement to report the use of Roundup monthly; and county regulations and permits.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding identification of ingredients; the annual assessment by the Environmental Protection Agency; lawsuits; availability of information; and the Sustainability Subcommittee page on the City website.

Council Member Sahli-Wells invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Sustainability Subcommittee:

Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance, discussed the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force; water quality; pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that find their way into the Creek; physical removal of offending plants; assistance of Ballona Creek Renaissance to remove invasive plants along the Creek; invasive plants in the landscaping; and alternatives to Roundup.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding precautions and proper application; alternatives and drawbacks; storm water runoff; long-standing concerns with the use of Roundup; best practices; studies cited that point to inerts and cumulative use; affects to bees and butterflies; urban habitats; countries and US cities that have banned Roundup; use of volunteers to help with weeding; measuring herbicides and pesticides; water quality; fines for exceedances; aggressive research on alternatives; clarification that use of Roundup is prohibited near water; bacteria that process the chemicals; standard procedures regarding application and notification to park users; the City license to apply chemicals; differing studies; water mandates; native plantings; mulches; Fox Hills; efficiency; safety of residents and employees; a request for information on local cities that have banned Roundup and their best practices; and staff agreement to furnish information on internal policies as to where Roundup is not applied in Culver City.

o0o

Item A-3

Presentation on China's "National Sword" Policy, Impacts on Global Recycling Markets, the United States, California and Culver City and Discussion of the City's Waste Characterization Analysis and Results of Recyclable Material Processing RFP

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, introduced staff; reported on polystyrene compliance efforts; the China trade barrier with regard to recyclable materials; contamination rates; processing facility cuts in acceptance levels; increasing recycling processing fees; extra work sorting to bring down contamination levels; affects to the economy of the United States; work with the World Trade Organization; the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Task Force; including recycling in

the federal infrastructure bill; internal processing rather than exporting; development of modern technology and facilities; funding to market for source reduction; education and outreach on contamination levels; and increased use of recyclable materials.

Primitivo Nunez, Cal Recycle, discussed establishing a webpage to assemble information to help stakeholders become aware of the issues; work with local enforcement agencies; oversight; additional storage of recycled materials; materials that are not being accepted; Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs); state required mandates; packing materials; Senate Bill 1383; additional diversion of organic materials; funding for infrastructure to increase the amount of materials recycled; greenhouse grants and loans; cap and trade funds; the recycling market; the partnership between the state and businesses in local jurisdictions; low interest loans for qualifying businesses; the LA County Recycling Market Development Zone; the Governor's Office of Economic Development; and additional funding.

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, discussed outreach and education plans by Culver City to encourage source reduction; monitoring of contamination levels; support for Cal Recycle funding efforts for infrastructure; Waste Characterization Analysis findings; implementation of new programs; and other perspectives.

Susan Collins, Container Recycling Institute, discussed the importance of recycling; environmental impact; saving 70-90% of the greenhouse gases and energy use; contamination; different stages that materials go through; Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs); the declining process for recyclables; clarification that glass, aluminum and PET remains local; the importance of emphasizing what is working; supply and demand; the closure of redemption centers for bottle and can recycling; the pricing formula from the state; cumulative shortfalls at redemption centers; additional materials in curbside recycling programs; putting forward best efforts; separation at the source; cross contamination; policies of other countries; achieving environmental benefits; education; the importance of source reduction; and deaths as a result of pollution.

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, discussed the Request for Proposals for processing

recyclable materials; changes to the market; contamination level penalties; incentives; blended value; and the Waste Characterization Analysis.

Leslie Lukacs, SCS Engineers, provided an overview of the Waste Characterization Analysis; discussed content of the commercial waste stream in Culver City; the commercial recycling stream and organic stream; the process for sampling; polystyrene levels; cleanliness of the green bin; bio bags; compostable forks, spoons and cups; efforts of restaurants to be more green; syringes; tracing back to the source; educating establishments on the route; weight vs. volume; and effectiveness of the polystyrene ban.

o0o

Item A-4

Discussion of Extended Producer Responsibility as it Relates to Implications of China's "National Sword" Policy

Catherine Vargas, Environmental Coordinator, discussed Extended Producer Responsibility; items banned from the landfill; placing the burden back on the manufacturer; determination of what items are banned; medical waste; better management of the waste stream; support from the manufacturers; retailer support; the City Council resolution in support of producer responsibility; municipalities that already have the procedure in play; and a suggestion to become a member of California Product Steward Council.

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, discussed next steps in the process; inspections; outreach; education; reducing contamination; and the need for another rate study due to increases in processing fees for recyclable materials.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding putting the presentation on the City website; collection centers; best practices; sorting earlier in the collection chain; lowering contamination levels; staff agreement to investigate costs for divided bins and impacts; support for producer responsibility; outreach; bringing the issue to other regional bodies; benefits to early adoption; funding; and agreement that Extended Producer Responsibility be brought before the City Council.

oOo

Item A-5

Overview and Discussion of West Basin's Draft Environmental Impact Report for Their Proposed Ocean Water Desalination Project

Shivaji Deshmukh, West Basin Water District, provided background on West Basin Water District; discussed the origin of the water supply; the shift to imported water in the 1990s; efforts to ensure local water supply; the recycled water program; ocean desalination; the significant demand for imported water; supply diversity; maximizing recycled water and conservation; the exploration of ocean desalination; research; changing the way water is used and the water supply is managed; water saving devices; education; native landscaping and plantings; grants; increased reliability of water supply; local control; the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); project objectives; reducing reliance on imported water; threats to supplies; local control; climate resiliency; project components; the preferred site; impacts; existing intakes and discharges; velocity; the conveyance system; the Environmental Impact Report (EIR); geologic conditions; ocean water quality; energy recovery devices; greenhouse gas emissions; achieving the same or better with alternative water supply; onsite renewable energy use; offsets through cap and trade; sea level rise; the Coastal Hazard Resiliency Study; ensuring that people know the EIR is out; the need for stakeholder input; significant and unavoidable impacts during construction; upcoming public meetings; length of time to receive public comment; preferred comment format; and document availability.

Council Member Sahli-Wells invited public participation.

The following member of the audience addressed the Subcommittee:

Conner Everts, Desal Response Group, discussed a workshop held on the issue; concerns including need, cost and environmental regulations; he requested an opportunity to present noting that they were still reviewing the EIR; and he expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee members regarding scheduling the item for the May 14 City Council agenda; support for taking a position on the matter; resident input; availability of the information on the City website; helping get the word out to the public; and clarification and contact information for Desal Response Group.

o0o

Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Council Member Sahli-Wells invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

o0o

Items from Subcommittee Members

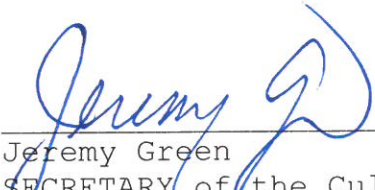
Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding upcoming topics; a consortium of groups that work on PACE Financing; actions of neighboring cities; getting a clear overview of City irrigation needs; follow up items including additional recycling centers and split bins; and focusing on waste issues.

o0o

Adjournment

There being no further business, at 5:02 p.m., the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council adjourned its meeting to July 18, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

o0o



Jeremy Green
SECRETARY of the Culver City Sustainability Subcommittee of
the City Council Culver City, California

APPROVED



Göran Eriksson
Council Member, Sustainability Subcommittee of the City
Council Culver City, California