

West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting
Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting
Tuesday, August 9th 2011, 7:15 PM
Council Chambers, West Lafayette City Hall

Attending: Dave Henderson, Kristin Flannelly, Aparna Puri, Gene Hanus, Dan Schuster, Denise Blank, Lindsey Payne, Diane Damico, Heather Gall,

Others: Brendan Senate, David Downey (Recycling and Sanitation)

Absentees: Allen Jacobsen, Peter Bunder, Rick Johnson,

- I. Diane: Call to order
- II. Approve July 2011 minutes, Kristin moves, Lindsey seconds, minutes approved
- III. Denise
 - a. Tipmont project, purchase compost bins and distribute to target neighborhood (Wabash Shores), participants will pay possible \$10 and attend a workshop put on by Dan Dunten, most likely early October; residents will also be surveyed, have enough money for roughly 58 bins = 58 households; should be part of a bigger project; Dan Schuster has one in driveway we could use as a "tour" stop and neighborhood association has email list, so we could send that first
- IV. Gene – Recycle Improvement Effort
 - a. Goal: Increase recycle content from 36% to 50% city wide by 2014
 - Current pickup schedule Jan – May 2011
 - Tuesday: University Farms (800 units)/ Barberrry (800 units) 44% Recycle
 - Wednesday: Golf course area (800 units)/ Indian trails (800 units) 37% recycle
 - Thursday: Hills and Dales (800 units)/ Campus (800 units) 27% recycle
 - Note: 800 units is roughly 1 truckload (8-12 tons) and 2-3 tons / truckload of recycled material
 - b. Facts: (most of this comes from estimates from South Haven, MI visit)
 - Current land fill costs = \$36.80 / ton
 - 3,000 tons landfilled per year = \$110,400
 - Transportation and labor cost to haul ??????
 - 14% reduction in land fill cost = 420 tons = \$15,456
 - Reduction in transportation cost for the 420 tons
 - Revenue from additional 420 tons of recycle material ??????
 - Cost of 96 gal bins with lid is \$ 60 each in volume.
 - Cost of 4,000 bins is \$240,000 (one for each household)
 - c. Assumptions:
 - Households fill small bins and then dispose of balance of recyclables in trash
 - If larger bins were available at no cost/ low cost, more would be recycled
 - Bins with lids could be stored outside and would reduce odor
 - d. Proposed action items:
 - Pick a sample neighborhood
 - Develop and conduct a survey for current recycle habits and preferences for change to improve those habits

- Based on outcome of the survey, build an economic model for implementation of enhanced recycling utilizing larger containers for weekly or bi-weekly pickup.
- Based on successful survey and economic justification, Purchase and distribute bins in target neighborhood, and collect data

V. Questions:

- Diane/Gene - Need to do surveys first, would bound by neighborhood trash route, ideally would go door-to-door to conduct survey
- Dave – student group has conducted past surveys could modify
- Kristin - Behavior or container? We need to target the ones that do not recycle.
- Gene - Campus area does not recycle very much. Why? It is a large area. Would be best bang for our buck, but it is a very transient area
- Dave – question he would like to see answered bin is full, overflowing, so would another bin help get it together and would you fill it up
- Diane – Mayor wants the two-tiered system, how does that fit in?
- Dave – smaller container trash, larger container recycling
- Gene – would include that on the survey
- Lindsey – should connect with WREC + Dr. Prokopy to look at her work with social behavioral surveys in regards to the Wabash, go through Nate Mullendore
- Dan – would group at Purdue still be interested in remaining active and working with campus area? And could we connect with current composting project, list already exists?
- Gene – 3-yr project, start with a test neighborhood
- Dan – will be working with Boiler Green group to help increase awareness, use peer pressure vs. our formal outreach; and we do have new Sustainability Director, Michael J. Gulich
- Denise – don't forget the educational component especially in younger kids
- Brent – can talk to high schools in areas, perhaps WLHS Eco Club and pitching them a project idea to take to elementary school, new advisors Leslie Smyser and Alicia Burcham
- Lindsey – Could run a focus group with compost folks to inform survey for waste reduction initiative
- Diane – is there an optimal size? Too big will there be a stigma?
- Neighborhood we will target Indian Trail/Wabash Shores

VI. Dave – Food Waste

- Contacted by WLHS again to start up food waste pick up
- Contacted by someone at Ross Ade to pick up food waste
- Next Wednesday EPA Webinar on food waste and Purdue University, will send link
- Advisory Committee – engineers are reviewing model, meeting with them next week
 - Philadelphia given the green light to do a huge “green infrastructure CSO” project

VII. Kristin – will be helping Diane via sending an email for Global Fest, Labor Day Weekend

- New events: Uptown Jazz, Aug. 27; Outfest, Aug. 20

VIII. Aparna – Farmers Market

- Been picking up recycling every week, Dan Dunten did a composting educational center, demonstrated a “make-your-own” compost bin, have lots of pictures, will send to Lindsey

- b. Nutritionist from PU will be coming, doing nutrition component and Aparna will be doing packing waste-free lunches, Aug 10 @ 3PM – 6PM, will try and look for places to display later
 - c. Denise – could this be set up at Parent’s night , registration day or flyer of “suggestions” to send home
- IX. Dan – water rate increase is still on-going and wants to be involved with CSO discussion
 - a. PU system – “some of our stuff runs through your stuff and some of your stuff runs through our stuff”
 - b. Dave – most of it however has been separated
- X. Dave – students are back, whoooo rah!
 - a. Neighborhood resource team has new initiative, sent out new roll-offs to put in extra trash and has cut down on large items in streets, alleys, etc.
 - b. City Hall recycling is up 60%
- XI. Diane – other Tipmont grant went to Clean Challenge for compostable dishes for Global Fest
- XII. Heather – eliminate plastic waste subcommittee
- XIII. Denise – will get in touch Dan Dunten
- XIV. Lindsey – CBG planning meeting tomorrow and two new businesses this month – Vostalpine Rotec and Creative, Inc.
- XV. Dan motions to adjourn, Diane seconds, adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM
- XVI. Next meeting September 13, 2011

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Diane Damico on August 9th, 2011