



Meeting Minutes

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Andy Haub
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Thursday, April 2, 2015

5:40 PM

City Hall, Room 207

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curtz at 5:40 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

There was no quorum at the meeting, therefore no actions were taken.

Present: 4 - Chair Thad Curtz, Committee Member Dever Kuni, Committee Member Carole Richmond, and Committee Member Chris Ward

Absent: 4 - Vice Chair Margaret Drennan, Committee Member Michelle Barnett, Committee Member David Dunn, and Committee Member Steve Fossum

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.A [15-0307](#) Approval of March 5, 2015 UAC Meeting Minutes

Approval of the minutes was postponed to the May 7 meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Water Resources Senior Planner Laura Keehan attended the meeting on behalf of Andy Haub.

Council unanimously adopted the advisory committee workplans, including the UAC's. Council also approved the re-appointment of Michelle Barnett to the UAC. Council made the following changes to the UAC membership: Carole Richmond (Planning Commission representative) will no longer be a voting member and reduced the UAC membership from 11 members down to nine. Other than the Heritage Commission, all City advisory committees have nine members. This action was approved through City ordinance.

The McAllister Wellfield project received the project of the year award from the Washington Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

On Saturday, March 28, the City held an Arbor Day event. The event was very successful, with 100 volunteers helping to plant trees and clear vegetation at two different sites.

City staff are continuing work with the consultant SCJ Alliance on low impact development (LID) in Olympia. Staff is working on the LID issue papers and continuing to move the project forward.

LOTT Clean Water Alliance will host a septic summit for elected officials on April 29 at LOTT. The summit will focus on the issue of onsite septic systems in Thurston County. All four jurisdictions are sending representatives and UAC members are welcome to attend. Staff will send an informational flyer for the summit to the UAC members.

Ms. Keehan gave a verbal update from Vice Chair Drennan, who was not able to attend the meeting. She reported Vice Chair Drennan attended a recent meeting of the General Government Committee with advisory chairs and gave a summary of the meeting:

- The advisory committee chairs noted there are several different documents that govern the advisory committees. They suggest condensing these items into one document. Communications Manager Cathie Butler will take the lead on doing this. The committees will have an opportunity to review and comment on it before it goes before Council.
- Discussed opportunities for committees to work together where workplans overlap. The committees would have the ability to send one of their members to be a liaison to another committee, if relevant.
- Discussed a tentative plan for committee chairs to meet again in November or December during workplan development to identify those areas of overlap.
- Discussed how the different committees welcome and orient new members, and shared ideas, from tours of facilities, to packets with information, to meetings with committee chairs. The UAC has two vacancies, so orienting new members is a relevant topic right now.

6.A. PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE - None

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

7.A [15-0308](#) 2015-2020 Waste ReSources Management Plan Update - Review Draft

Waste ReSources Senior Program Specialist Ron Jones presented a draft Waste ReSources Management Plan. Staff requests UAC input and recommendations for Council on the draft Plan, which sets the strategic direction for the Waste ReSources Utility for 2015-2020. A quorum was not present at the meeting, so a recommendation did not occur. This item was postponed until the May 7 meeting.

UAC members had general comments and questions for staff:

- Could the City use solar compactors? Staff said this option was not viable when they researched it a few years ago. Solar compactors seem to make the most sense to have in parks.
- UAC is supportive of the Plan's focus on construction debris. Recommend the City require onsite source separation of garbage, recycling, and other construction materials.
- Does the City plan to do partnerships with similar groups in the area? Staff said there are some partnership opportunities, especially with King County and their "Link Up" program for textile recovery. The City could do something similar with a building material recovery drop off day and then work with partners that could take the materials and get it back to people that could re-use. It was noted the ReStore will pick up construction items that would normally go to the landfill.
- Suggestion to see more analysis of energy use and CO2 emissions tied into the goals of the Plan.
- The Plan language should be stronger for items the City feels they should be doing and asking for Council's support to move forward.
- Has the City considered prohibiting food waste in the garbage stream like City of Seattle? Staff said this is not a strategy in the Plan right now. The City may consider a ban in the future on some recyclables into the garbage stream. It was noted that any type of ban involves enforcement.
- Are there any companies in Olympia that could use the compost materials the City collected? No, the City is not doing this right now, but the City uses downed trees and other storm debris as mulch on City properties.

Mr. Jones gave a briefing on a UAC workplan request regarding a ban on unsolicited publications, such as phone books or the free newspapers delivered to your driveway. After some research, staff noted several case law items that state bans on the delivery of newspapers is unconstitutional, violating First Amendment. City of Seattle tried to ban phone books or establish a mandatory opt-out. Seattle got into a legal battle with the phone book industry. Staff noted there is an opt-out option for phone books which is yellowpagesoptout.com. The one thing that has worked for cities is to have ordinances that state unsolicited newspapers or phone books have to be fixed to a door or gate when delivered.

Two follow up items for staff:

- UAC members inquired about results of the Thurston County plastic bag survey. Staff will send the UAC a link to that information.
- Staff will send the Waste Management Plan appendices to the UAC.

The information was postponed to the May 7 meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Curtz adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.