

Newton Sustainable Materials Management Commission (SMMC)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Online Meeting

Members in Attendance: Sunwoo Kahng, Chair, Meryl Kessler (at 7:30 p.m.), Vice Chair, Carl Valente, Secretary, Marian Rambelle, Alan Gordon, Karen Slote and Robin Maltz.

Members Absent: John Lewis, Steve Ferrey, Miles Smith, Jim McGonagle, Commissioner, DPW, Ex-Officio.

Other Participants: Waneta Trabert, Director, DPW Sustainable Materials Management Division, Shara Ertel and Vince McKay.

Approval of April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

On the motion by Ms. Slote, seconded by Ms. Kahng, the Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2023 were approved 4-0-2 on a roll call vote. Ms. Kahng, Ms. Rambelle, Mr. Gordon and Ms. Slote, voting yes. Ms. Maltz and Mr. Valente, voting to abstain.

Preparing for the 2025 Waste Hauling Contract

Ms. Trabert reported that the Mayor's Office is still reviewing the SMMD-Technical Assistance Grant Report.

Ms. Kahng suggested that the SMMC should try to appear before the City Council to present the findings of the SMMC November 2021 Report; **Setting the Path to Zero Waste**. She will attempt to schedule this for September.

The SMMC had a general discussion regarding the feasibility of a city-wide composting program.

Review of 2023 Goal Assignments

- **City-wide Composting Program:** In light of the City's financial situation and current lack of support from the Mayor for such a program at this time, it was agreed that the SMMC will not pursue further study on this program at this time. In the alternative, Mr. Valente, Mr. Smith and Mr. McKay will look at communities that have implemented smaller sized trash carts to better understand the motivation and results.
- **Buy-Recycled Policy:** Mr. Gordon and Ms. Maltz will look into implementing a more robust buy recycled policy for City departments.-
- **Assistance to City Departments:** Ms. Kahng and Ms. Kessler will look into how the SMMC can better integrate its efforts with City departments and the School Department.
- **School Recycling:** Ms. Trabert and Ms. Ertel will look into how to better collaborate with the School Department on recycling programs in the Schools.

SMMD Update:

Ms. Trabert reviewed the May SMMD update, dated May 24, 2023. Ms. Trabert also commented that she was asked to project high, medium and low trash tonnage estimates, for FY24 budget purposes. Her understanding is that the Mayor's FY24 budget is based on the low tonnage estimate.

Public Comments/Open Announcements: There were no public comments or announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the SMMC will be Thursday, June 22, 2023 via Zoom.

Documents Provided/Discussed at Meeting:

- 1. April 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes*
- 2. May 2023 SMMD Update, dated May 24, 2023*