**City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:**May 16, 2024

**ATTENDEES: In Person and *On Teams***

**SWRAC Members**

Bob Anderson, Closed Loop Partners

*Fern Gookin(Chair), Revolution Recovery*

Kyle Lewis, City of Philadelphia – Sanitation Department

Chuck Raudenbush, Waste Consultant

**Others :**

*Tim Bennett, Bennett Compost*

David Brotnitsky, City of Philadelphia – Recycling Office

Jen Brown, Department of Parks and Recreation

Laura Cassidy, Department of Prisons

*Rebecca Collins, Temple University*

Benjamin Cromie, CH Planning PHL Airport

*Mike Ewall, Energy Justice Network*

*Bryce Forys, Temple University*

*Raven Arnold Green, City of Philadelphia*

Suzanne Greenwood, City of Philadelphia – Sanitation Department

Maria Horowitz, Philadelphia Water Department

Peter Karasik, Resident

Scott McGrath, City of Philadelphia – Sanitation Department

Melissa McMullen, Department of Aviation PHL Airport

*Nina Morris, University of Pennsylvania*

Natalie Walker, Department of Parks and Recreation

*Lizzy Weal, Philadelphia Water Department*

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Kyle Lewis at 3:10 pm.

**Introductions**

**Welcome (Kyle Lewis)**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes, as amended, were approved by voice votefor the 3/21/24 meeting.

**State of Recycling (Kyle Lewis)**

* Recycling is up 4,000 tons, year over year
* Contamination rate about 16%, moving in the right direction
* Disposal rate is currently $68.75 and recycling rate is currently $67.77 (blended rate combined)
* First time blended rate is lower than disposal rate since contract began in 2019
* Pricing is impacted by the market and contamination rates
* Efforts to remind people that recycling needs to be clean
* Bob Anderson added that cardboard and HDPE natural have softened

**Organics Subcommittee (Natalie Walker)**

* Met last week
* Adam Hendricks (former co-chair) of subcommittee have left the City and the role.
* Looking for a chair or co-chair
  + Does the chair or co-chair need to be a SWRAC member?
  + Can the chair or co-chair have a contract with the City or be able to pursue a contract with the City?
  + Scott McGrath noted there aren’t formal rules for the subcommittee.
  + Kyle Lewis asked Natalie to email questions to her and she would get clarity
* Question about how to become a SWRAC member? Kyle said it is an appointed role and tied to the 10-year plan, which will be started again around 2026/2027.
* Looking for new members, how might this tie to the new Clean and Green Cabinet?
* Questions about the requirements for restaurants to handle their organics.

**Parks & Recreation Update(Natalie Walker)**

* Continuing to expand composting program partnership with Bennett Compost
* Hoping to extend the program to a 10yr contract
* Hoping to expand locations
* Launching sawmill next week, in partnership with PowerCorps and Cambium Partners

**Sanitation& Philadelphia Recycling Office (PRO) Update (Kyle Lewis)**

* Clean and Green Cabinet members and more programs are being announced tomorrow.
* Department has been doing a lot of hiring: 40-60 people per month
* Keep Philadelphia Beautiful is in the works
* Completed the litter index, which will be put up on the website
* Brought back Green Schools Program
* Piloting recycling at a PHA site, working on outreach
* Working on internal recycling at the City
* Working on getting some interns; one project will be to update recycling donation resource

**Informational Items, Open Discussion, and Announcements**

* Mike Ewallasked if there was anywhere in the region that does mattress and box spring recycling. Fern Gookin noted that the closest place she knows for recycling these materials is TurboHaul near Baltimore: <https://www.turbohaul.com/mattress-recycling/>
* Mike Ewallnoted that the trucks in his neighborhood have been putting recycling in the trash trucks again. He has reports that this has been happening in other areas of the city as well. Kyle Lewis asked if this information can be reported real time by sending an email to her and the Recycling Office as soon as possible. If you have the date, time, location, and/or truck number that would be helpful. If you have photos or videos that would be helpful. She said this should not be happening and asked for anyone to report to her directly so it can be investigated.
* Maria Horowitz noted that the Philadelphia Water Department also has issues with people communicating issues to them promptly. If the Department is notified, they can be given a chance to respond to the issue.
* Maria Horowitz noted that there was a Schools Sustainability Summit a few weeks ago. It would be good to have them represented in these meetings again.
* Nina Morris shared an article on Penn’s clean out efforts <https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/greener-approach-end-academic-year>
* Laura Cassidy has had some successful community partnership events recently and has applied for some grants to expand sustainability initiatives.

**Next Meeting Date**

July 18,2024 on Microsoft Teams.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm.