

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18TH AT 7:00 P.M. AT LOS ALTOS CITY HALL, ONE NORTH SAN ANTONIO ROAD, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Anderson, Coombs, DeMichiel, Rosewater, Schink

ABSENT: Chien-Hale, Cooper

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes

On a MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR SCHINK, SECONDED BY CHAIR ANDERSON AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, the minutes of the regular meeting of August 11, 2008 will be continued to the September's regular meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Solid Waste Collection Level of Service

Commissioner DeMichiel recommended that the Commission discuss the fifteen items listed in the staff report dated June 23, 2008 and the "Issues Relating to the Collection of Garbage and Recyclables" document. All Commissioners supported.

The Commission reviewed issues related to the Los Altos garbage contract renewal.

The Commission's overriding concern is to reduce land fill and increase the recycling level to lower the Los Altos carbon footprint. The Commission stated that the Contractor's service should be more efficient, clean, reliable, well communicated and regular than the current service.

The Commission's priorities were classified as High, Medium and Low.

The High priority list consisted of the following items:

Residential can sizes

Commissioners recommended that smaller containers be available, and that a fee structure be implemented to reward residents producing less garbage. The Commission would like to see a 20-gallon option that is half the 32-gallon rate, and a 64-gallon option priced at least 2 times the cost of the 32-gallon. These would be determined with a menu driven program.

Outreach and Education

The Commission recommends a City outreach and education program to teach residents about recycling and composting.

Public Access to Recycling

Commissioners stated that the recycling containers should be readily accessible in downtown areas and parks.

Frequency of Pickup

Recycling rate for garbage and recyclables, including garden recycling, should be weekly to encourage more recycling.

The Medium priority list consisted of the following items:

Menu Driven Services

The Commission feels a strong need to have options for Los Altos residents that allows for varying levels of service and cost. Sideyard/Backyard service would be menu-driven in this type of program, as would be bulk item pickups.

Single Stream Recycling

Commissioners prefer single stream recycling, allowing recyclables in a single rolling toter. They feel that the ease of use will encourage more recycling.

Business Recycling

The Commission would like to see pooled recyclables enclosures in downtown parking plazas for shared use of businesses.

Rolling Toters

Commissioners feel that rolling toters should replace resident owned containers. This would make it easier for resident, and would therefore encourage greater recycling rates.

Backyard composting

The Commission would like to see a City-sponsored bin purchase and composting educational program.

Hazardous Waste Programs

Commissioners feel that there should be a well-communicated, county-wide, coordinated program that allows for safe and efficient disposal of hazardous waste, including batteries, florescent bulbs, paint, electronic waste, etc.

The Low priority list consisted of the following items:

Additional items

The Commission would like to see additional items included in curbside pickup such as old clothes, pillows, shoes, and clothes hangers.

High Density

The Commission would like to see programs implemented to address the need for recycling ease in existing condos and high density housing areas and new development.

Free Compost

Currently this is available to residents from the Sunnyvale Smart Station. The Commission sees no need to change and would like to see surrounding communities participate in a composting program.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Aida Fairman, STAFF LIAISON