

**SOLID WASTE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

November 22, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Karsten, Chair
Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Hum
Councillor Meade

REGRETS: Councillor Martin
Councillor Snow
Councillor Rankin

STAFF: Mr. Jim Bauld, Manager, Solid Waste Resources
Mr. Robert Orr, Collection and Processing Coordinator, Solid
Waste Resources
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councillor Wile to be noted as regret on the minutes.

MOVED by Meade, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the minutes from September 27, 2007, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Added items:

- 7. Public Participation - Mr. Mason
- 9.1 Councillor Hendsbee - Household Batteries
- 9.2 Mr. Bauld - CFL Compact Fluorescent Lights
- 9.3. Councillor Hendsbee - Christmas Tree/Decoration Collection

MOVED by Councilor Hum, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

6.1 Capital Cost Contribution - Regional Solid Waste Charge - Presentation

Mr. Bauld introduced Peter Duncan and Holly Power-Garrett. Mr. Duncan and Ms. Power-Garrett provided a presentation on Capital Cost Contribution as it applies to the Regional Solid Waste Charge.

Councillor Hum inquired if the plan would be looking at recreation facilities. Mr. Duncan noted that recreation facilities was not a first priority. They would be looking at hard services first followed by soft services.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired if the per unit rate was per building or per unit. Ms. Power-Garrett added that it is per unit.

Councillor Karsten asked about the 18 year model and was advised that 18 years is the anticipated lifespan of the Otter Lake facilities.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired as to the unit fee and when it will be charged at development or upon occupancy. The unit fee will be charged at the development stage.

Councillor Meade asked what the charge was. Mr. Duncan advised that the fee would be a number between \$185-\$225..

Mr. Duncan advised that a new by-law will be developed in order to deal with the situation of new developments.

Mr. Duncan noted that Halifax is ahead of the rest of the nation in regard to this two-tier process.

All Committee members suggested a review of the presentation should be held every four years for all Councillors in order to keep new Councils aware of the process.

It was suggested that if any members of the Committee have any input or questions, they email Mr. Duncan or Ms. Power-Garrett.

Councillor Hendsbee added that this presentation would be beneficial to the Tax Review Committee.

6.2 Referral from Regional Council - Ban of Furniture Products in Landfill

Mr. Bauld noted the memo regarding the motion by Councillor Smith to amend By-law 600 to ban furniture from the landfill.

Mr. Bauld noted that although a thorough assessment analysis needs to be done in order to accommodate this request, that staff has completed the attached preliminary analysis.

The Committee provided the following comments in regard to the proposed ban:

All members were concerned that such a ban would only increase the problem of illegal dumping throughout HRM.

Many community groups and furniture banks are always looking for used furniture and this idea should be promoted.

The Universities use(d) to have a program to recycle and swap used furniture and it worked really well. Mr. Bauld will contact the universities to get some input on whether this is a feasible option.

Councillor Hum requested information on the type of appliances and electronics that can go to the landfill. Mr. Bauld advised that tvs and appliances can go to the landfill.

Starting February the Provincial E waste program will divert tvs and computers from all landfills in NS. Refrigerators and freezers have to have their Freon removed before they can be accepted. HRM does this free for residential homeowners in HRM. Condo dwellers have to pay a fee of approximately twenty dollars for Freon removal.

It was agreed that Mr. Bauld and staff would:

- 1) Contact universities regarding programs for furniture swap/removal
- 2) Newsletter - promote furniture bank locations: updates on furniture, appliance and refrigerator and freezer removal, with information on Freon removal

Mr. Bauld also agreed to send an information report to Council regarding furniture pickup.

The Committee does not support the recommendation of a ban of furniture products in the landfill.

MOVED BY Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Meade that staff issue a Report to Council in reference to the procedures of furniture, appliance and electronics removal. MOTION PASSED AND PUT.

6.3 Ban Use of Plastic Garbage Bags

Mr. Bauld discussed the memo regarding the request by Councillor Snow to ban the use of plastic garbage bags.

Mr. Bauld indicated that this would be very difficult to enforce and would not be publically accepted.

The Committee does not support the request to ban the use of plastic garbage bags.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mason, Executive Director of the Community Monitoring Committee addressed the Committee providing an update to their progress.

Councillor Hum inquired as to the initiatives to move from 57% diversion to a 60% diversion. Mr. Mason advised that over time 60% will be reached. New initiatives will be developed which will contribute to increased diversion. The implementation of the six bag limit will contribute. Once Mr. Bauld and his staff complete a waste study, the impact will be determined. Councillor Karsten added that with the implementation of e-waste, it may increase the percentage. Mr. Mason noted that once 60% diversion is reached, new benchmarks will be set.

8. CORRESPONDENCE- None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Household Batteries/Recycling

Councillor Hendsbee provided information regarding recycling of household batteries suggesting the program be initiated in HRM. He suggested a Safe Grad program with competition between high schools. Councillor Hum added that a financial fund should be awarded to the winning school which would contribute to their Safe Grad Program.

Mr. Bauld will research the possibility of an event to coincide with Environment week (Ex. Safe Grad Program).

The Naturally Green newsletter could provide information on battery recycling.

9.2 CFL - Compact Fluorescent Lights

Mr. Bauld advised that Home Depot Canada has a CFL recovery program. This information will be on the website and in the Naturally Green newsletter.

Councillor Karsten added that this program should be monitored in order to make sure it is working properly.

Mr. Bauld indicated that due to CFLs long life only one or two are dropped off at the Household Hazardous Recovery site monthly.

9.3 Christmas Tree/Decoration Pickup

Mr. Bauld indicated that the Christmas tree pickup service will continue as standard practice for the 2007/08 season. Trees will be picked up if they are put out on the proper collection day and the decorations taken off. Mr. Bauld advised that there will be a newspaper, radio and television campaign to remind residents of Christmas tree pickup.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next scheduled Committee meeting will be held on January 24th, 2008 at 2:00 pm at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant