

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Sustainability Commission
September 8, 2021
6:30 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Sustainability Commission was held Wednesday, September 8, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically:

Jimmy Fox	Wyatt Hurlbut
Ariane Glover, Vice-Chairperson	Brett Parks, Chairperson

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor
Matt Pearson, Recycling Center Manager
Bob Jordan, Solid Waste Manager

MESSAGES

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

GLOVER,
Seconded by HURLBUT

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA - continued

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Fox, Glover, Hurlbut, Parks

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 4 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Sustainability Commission Meeting minutes of August 11, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Reports from FNSB Technical Staff

Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor, introduced Matt Pearson, Recycling Center Manager. Bob Jordan, Solid Waste Manager, spoke a few words as an introduction for Mr. Pearson. Mr. Pearson introduced himself including his recycling experience in Hawaii and Alaska. Mr. Fox, Mr. Hurlbut, and Mr. Parks welcomed Mr. Pearson.

2. Recycling Strategic Plan Quarterly Report by FNSB Solid Waste.

Mr. Pearson gave a report on the Recycling Score Card and stated the FY21 recycling numbers have been finalized.

Ms. Glover asked Mr. Pearson to clarify the bailer recyclables process. Mr. Jordan answered the question explaining the discrepancy.

Mr. Fox thanked Mr. Pearson for the update and asked a question about where the revenue goes after it is generated. Mr. Jordan answered with the budgeting process. Mr. Fox also asked about the increase of costs for electronic recycling. Mr. Jordan said that the budget has been adjusted to account for it. Mr. Fox wondered why the costs would increase fifty percent. Mr. Jordan stated that Green Star’s costs have gone up and thus so did the prices.

Ms. Glover asked if certain costs were included in the total percentage of diversion rate. Mr. Jordan stated they were. Ms. Glover asked how the diversion rate could have decreased and explained the reasoning for her question. Mr. Jordan explained how the diversion rate was calculated.

REPORTS - continued

Mr. Fox asked about the feedback from the microphone and the clerk clarified that it was necessary for the microphones in the Chambers to be on.

Mr. Hurlbut asked what "UBC" referred to. Mr. Parks answered it was the aluminum.

Mr. Fox remarked that prices have risen and asked if this was something that would continue into the near-term future. Mr. Jordan stated that this increase is due to a previous decline in prices and that these prices should be expected and the shipment of "pure" loads also increases prices.

Mr. Hurlbut said he noticed there was more cardboard in the last few months and wondered why and if that would continue. Mr. Jordan stated it was a result of what is brought to the center but was not able to be more specific.

Mr. Jordan continued his report by talking about the Recycling Strategic Plan and the limits of the current facility including the lease term.

Mr. Fox asked how the public process works for the Capital Improvement Plan projects. Ms. Smart answered with a detailed explanation of the process. She also stated this information can be found at www.fnsb.gov/cip.

Mr. Fox stated that he felt it would be beneficial if the commission wrote a letter to the administration for the CIP process in support of the Central Recycling Facility.

Ms. Glover thought it should be on the agenda for the October 13, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Hurlbut asked what the scope of the request for the Central Recycling Facility was. Mr. Jordan gave a brief overview of the scope. Mr. Hurlbut expressed concerns that perhaps the scope did not include the specifications needed. Mr. Jordan said that the process has not reached that point yet. Ms. Smart provided further elucidation of the CIP process.

Mr. Parks asked for the commission to clarify what the letter of support would be supporting. Mr. Fox volunteered to draft it.

Ms. Glover asked if increasing the input from Alaska Waste was still a possibility or if it was only on the radar. Mr. Jordan stated the facility was accepting cardboard but was reticent to expand what the system received from Alaska Waste as it could cause problems.

REPORTS - continued

Mr. Hurlbut inquired how much the recycling program could grow before it could not be maintained. Mr. Jordan replied that very limited growth could be accommodated. Ms. Smart stated that Mayor Ward wanted a forward-thinking facility that is constructed specifically for recycling. Ms. Smart also said that the current facility is a stopgap until a purpose-built facility is available.

Ms. Glover wondered whether there was any response to the memo submitted to Mayor Ward. Mr. Jordan said that he was in the middle of a response and it should be forthcoming.

3. Update on FBX Talks Trash by FNSB Solid Waste.

Mr. Jordan gave a run-down of the FBX Talks Trash program.

Ms. Smart asked Mr. Jordan if there was a way to expand promotion of the recycling facility as part of the FBX Talks Trash program's efforts. Mr. Jordan replied that it would be possible to start that in the middle of winter or early next spring.

Mr. Fox asked if there was any way to talk about the Central Recycling Facility with the six codes previously mentioned. He also asked for the timeline to be elaborated on. Mr. Jordan gave his timeline and the reasoning behind it. Mr. Fox asked about the length of the contract and Mr. Jordan gave the specifics. Mr. Fox stated it would be interesting to see how the CIP process goes and how it would affect the recycling program.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion with FNSB Solid Waste and possible recommendations regarding the Recycling Strategic Plan.

Ms. Smart provided some context as to why this topic was on the agenda. Ms. Glover said that she had questions from the August meeting for Mr. Pearson. Ms. Glover asked about the alignment of the diversion goal and the Central Recycling Facility's diversion quarterly diversion goals. Mr. Pearson stated staffing levels were a problem. Mr. Pearson also stated that the ability to process the recycling materials was imperative in meeting goals.

Mr. Fox said that the new Central Recycling Facility was imperative in meeting goals and continuing to promote recycling. Mr. Fox also spoke about proposed changes to the Recycling Strategic Plan.

Ms. Glover also felt that a new recycling facility was important.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

Ms. Smart asked if the commission was asking for the Solid Waste Division to make changes to the Recycling Strategic Plan and what the timeline would be if that was the case.

Chair Parks asked if it was the commission's plan or if it belonged to the staff. Mr. Jordan answered that the Sustainability Commission helped draft it and staff had updated it over the last few years. Mr. Jordan agreed that a new recycling facility was necessary, and he would spend some time updating the plan to reflect that.

Mr. Hurlbut asked how the scorecard aligned with what the staff was experiencing and the questions the public was asking. Mr. Jordan stated the scorecard helped the staff to contextualize the raw numbers.

Ms. Smart asked if there was a first quarter report available for the October Sustainability Commission meeting. Mr. Jordan stated that it would be difficult due to the timing of the quarterly reports. Ms. Smart also asked that the proposed changes be added to the first page of the Recycling Strategic Plan report. Mr. Jordan said it would be done.

Chair Parks invited Jewelz Barker to make a quick comment.

Jewelz Barker spoke about FBX Talks Trash.

Chair Parks summarized what was needed from staff and Mr. Fox added what he gleaned from staff's comments. Ms. Smart also helped to clarify the expectations of staff and what was needed from commissioners.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

Ms. Smart asked if the meeting time could be changed to 6:00 p.m. moving forward. There was an informal roll call and everyone agreed they could be present at that time.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Parks thanked everyone for their patience.

Mr. Fox thanked everyone for their patience and also thanked the staff. Mr. Fox also brought up the general congratulations letter to any newly elected officials and volunteered to draft it.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS - continued

Ms. Glover welcomed Mr. Pearson and thanked everyone for their updates and Mr. Fox for his willingness to volunteer.

Mr. Hurlbut stated he was at the University of Alaska sustainability meeting and updated the commission on what happened during the meeting.

Ms. Glover brought up America Recycles Day November 14, 2021. Chair Parks recommended staff participate.

Clerk's Note: America Recycles Day is on November 15, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Sustainability Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.