

Agenda
Saint Paul Garbage Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m. March 3, 2022
Rondo Library
461 N Dale Street, Saint Paul

1. Welcome and Introductions

Committee Members in attendance: Alisa Lein, Gabriele Pillmann, Rosemary O'Brien, Robin Graham, Sarah Axtmann, Scott Jensen, Celeste Marin, Javonna McCoy-Barber, Drew Nelson, Bruce Johnson

City Staff in attendance: Susan Young (Manager Resident and Employee Services), Sarah Haas (Garbage Program Manager), Jeannette Rebar (Outreach and Engagement Specialist), Kris Hageman (Recycling Program Manager)

2. Comments from the public – finish by 6:30pm

- Ronda Hulter – westside; always had own garbage service, live in a duplex and have half a bag of garbage a week and have to pay for 2 containers; don't have room for or need for the other container; over charged; senior citizen and don't have a lot of money to throw around; angry when get my bill from garbage hauler; this group has done a good job of bringing up the items I'm upset about; finding a way out – the contract is binding; I've had to pay extra for something that I'm not using; every other week isn't that much cheaper – should be less; unhappy with cost; hoping it can be more equitable for people like me that are poor
- Bruce Clark – in favor of opting out and cart sharing; would like to debate whoever says that opt out is a privileged; always hauled my garbage to a transfer station; I don't pay my bills until billed to property tax out of protest; forced to conform with everyone else; thought goal was to reduce waste; but cart charges don't reflect that; subsidize others with larger carts; would like to understand this idea of where this idea of being privileged comes from and idea that zero wasters are sneaking around throwing garbage in others containers; allow for opting out & cart sharing – Bloomington & Maplewood allow this with a \$35 one year opt out fee
- Cynthia McArthur – no comments
- Eric L – listening only; no microphone
 - o From chat: I echo Peter Butler's comments. Low & zero waste households are currently penalized by being forced to pay for non-existent garbage.
- Peter Butler – Thanks to committee members and staff for your time; St Paul has opportunity to make this a model program; hope next iteration is more than just one truck down each alley; the more you throw out the more you should be paying; it's a lot of money; we could make this a much better program
- Bruce Clark
 - o Wrong about opt out stats
 - o Will cost me more money if residence and cart – this is going in the wrong direction
 - o \$24.7 million spent by the City – costly program
 - o If the true facts were known in 2018, we won't have had the vote that we had

- Cost for illegal dumping was that given to the committee – yes, I didn't see them
- I have the Bloomington and Maplewood forms for opting out – have to pay one time
 - Fill out who cart sharing with
 - Can always fine a scofflaw

3. Approval of Minutes of 3/3/2022 meeting

Minutes approved

4. Review of “Buckets” including public comments received

Discussion regarding terms

- **zero waste; low waste or very low waste, high waste**
- **Acknowledge the term zero waste but use low waste or very low waste**

Discussion regarding Opt out/cart sharing

- **Divide into multi-unit vs single family – in a property vs across parcels**
- Minneapolis has a fee per dwelling unit and separate charge for carts
- Maplewood – have to have the written permission of the property you are sharing the cart with; have to say where you are taking the trash; does require enforcement
- Equity piece – it's a public service so everyone should pay in to it; public health benefit
- Don't have a cart but still have to pay something
- Multi-family – equity since 4-plex has less people than the single family home but has to pay more than the single family home
- Ability for DSI to step in and requirement for more carts or no more cart sharing
- Enforcement? – paperwork to process?
 - New garbage contract – could require a tagging system if extra garbage
- Fear is that everyone is going to opt out and then not take care of their trash; but don't think its going to happen
- Possible to have a blended program
 - Opt out – one time fee
 - If using service, per unit and cart costs

Discussion regarding Bulky Items

- Consensus – general agreement
 - Some form of bulky collection – majority pay as use; minority include as part of overall program
 - Include as part of the overall bill +
 - if opt in/pay as use the service/as needed basis +++
 - Rebate system – if at end of the year you haven't used it, you can request a rebate
 - More ways to get people using it – easier to use
 - Working on other ways to get information out
 - Language barriers

- Price list for bulkies
- Pricing based on 10% of people using each year; not necessarily everyone using each year

- Lay out a Bulky section – Susan will do this so you can see a potential layout
- Susan to remove the duplicates and share information for pluses
- Appendix with all the comments
 - o Public should continue to share comments

- Public Comment
 - o Pay \$2.1 million for bulkies; its like appliance insurance: paying that you will need to have a bulky removed

5. Discussion of report format

- Have been doing things in buckets
- Intro paragraph – who and what charged with
- Overarching things that you all pretty much in agreement on
- What order you would like the buckets in?
- Want to include public comments in it
 - o If we agree with a public comment than we could add it
 - o Have an appendix with all the public comments
 - o More weight to committee voice, but want to include public comments
- Remove any opinion and stick to fact and what we wish
- Lots of the comments are the same
- Reduce the comments – group them; include solutions
 - o Ex: if zero waster, pay more in recycling fee
- Format
 - o Intro
 - o Executive summary – high level details – one page document to get the overall idea
 - o All the details – findings
 - Agreement and disagreement – all viewpoints
 - Include public comments here by topics
 - o Closing summary
- Weight of items is helpful – see what issues had more support within the committee

- Susan will draft the bulkies section based on the discussion and will remove duplicates
- Start with billing next meeting

6. Confirmation of date/time of next meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, March 31, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Rondo Library Flex Room