

April 19, 2012
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The Plastic Bag Community Plan Task Force met on the above date and time in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall.

In attendance were Task Force Members: Lyle Mattson, Herb Goblirsch, Peggy Sabanskas, Gretchen Ammerman, Laura Kriz, Matt Hawkyard, Rob Thompson, LeOra Johnson, Mark Jones, Mark Saelens, Dennis Fry, Steve Farish, Debra Smith, Rhonda Fry, Heiner Wagener, Vince Pappalardo, and Katherine Howard.

Also in attendance were Mayor McConnell, Councilors Lon Brusselback, David Allen, and Sandra Roumagoux, and Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director. (Mayor McConnell left when Councilor Allen arrived.)

INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

REVIEW RESOLUTION NO. 3576 - CREATING THE TASK FORCE

McConnell reviewed Resolution No. 3576 and the charge of the Task Force.

ELECT CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

MOTION was made by Goblirsch to elect Mattson chair of the Task Force. Mattson declined. Hawkyard and Jones were nominated to chair the Task Force. In a vote of eight to seven, Hawkyard was declared chair of the Task Force. MOTION was made by Sabanskas, seconded by Ammerman, that Jones be vice-chair of the Task Force. The motion carried in a voice vote.

LIST AND PRIORITIZE TASKS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Hawkyard asked what items the Task Force is looking at to reduce or eliminate the identified problems. Discussion included that plastic is loose in the environment, and a solution to this is to recycle better or stop using the bags. It was noted that there is interest in the recycling process, and suggested that the Task Force investigate and develop a solution that does not have a cost to citizens, including recycling. It was suggested that the problem is not the plastic bag, but how it is used/abused. It was noted that the plastic bags ultimately end up in the garbage and do not biodegrade. It was further noted that there is not a good recycling stream, and there is concern regarding the amount of plastics that are in the environment. It was added that some Task Force members are opposed to a ban because this is taking away a freedom. A discussion ensued regarding how plastic bags are handled in New Zealand. It was suggested that a sub-Task Force be created to look into alternative materials. Goblirsch volunteered, but noted that he would need additional assistance. It was suggested that there is an excellent recycling system in Lincoln County. A discussion ensued regarding

how well plastic bags are being recycled. It was noted that during the first oil crisis, some places began charging for bags and others began using hemp bags, but it is all a matter of education. It was suggested that a list of documents to review would include the ordinances from Corvallis and Portland, the previous state legislation, and ORS 459. It was noted that recycling should continue, but the use of plastic bags should be reduced. It was also noted that the state is looking at legislation, and other places have gone through the process, including Ireland, Taiwan, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco. Mattson reported that he spent \$35,000 on plastic bags for JC Market last year. He noted that one of the problems is food safety/hygiene. He noted that he is not against banning plastic bags, but he is against the City Council directing the public in a manner that is unsafe for food safety. He stated that he is willing to put recycling in place in his market. He also noted that there are alternatives that might be better for citizens. It was reported that Fred Meyer stopped using plastic bags in its Portland stores prior to the ban. Ammerman reported that Kenny's IGA, in Lincoln City, has stopped using plastic bags. Sabanskas noted that Mattson can afford to buy bags in bulk. She added that the cost of changing is huge, and that theft is an issue with some bags. Hawkyard reviewed the issues brought up at this meeting including: recycling; sanitation; education; alternative options; theft; and cost.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on May 3, 2012, at 5:30 P.M., and that the issue will be the recycling stream. The representatives of the trash haulers will make a presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.