

September 27, 2012
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

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

In attendance were Task Force Members: LeOra Johnson, Laura Kriz, Herb Goblirsch, Vince Pappalardo, Rhonda Fry, Dennis Fry, Gretchen Ammerman, Matt Hawkyard, Jay Fineman (via telephone), Ken Riley, Mark Jones, Peggy Sabanskas, Mark Saelens, Katherine Howard, and Steve Farish. Also present was Council liaison Lon Brusselback and Mayor Mark McConnell. Citizens present were Cyd Cannizzaro, Charlie Plybon, Lee Larson, and Mark Fisher. Media present was Rick Beasley of the Newport News-Times. Staff present was Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director.

CALL TO ORDER

Hawkyard called the meeting or order and everyone introduced themselves.

PRESENTATION BY CHARLIE PLYBON - OTHER OREGON MUNICIPALITIES' BAG POLICIES

Plybon made a PowerPoint presentation. Issues included were:

1. Plastic bag legislation including a brief history of federal, state, and municipal activity, as well as outside the United States. Also included was a summary of the evolution of plastic bag legislation in California.
2. The history of plastic bag legislation in Oregon, including SB66 which requires all Oregon stores to offer a choice of a paper bag; the failed statewide ban on plastic bags; and the Corvallis, Portland and Eugene current or proposed legislation.
3. Bag policy themes were discussed, including an outright ban on plastic bags, a ban with a fee, fees and taxes, and a voluntary program. Plybon noted that not always is the best policy the right policy. He added that a plastic bag ban eliminates plastic bags, but creates a higher conversion to paper. He reviewed some of the Portland data.
4. Plybon discussed a plastic bag ban with a fee, noting that this eliminates plastic bags, and has a higher conversion to reusables, and that this reflects the policy of 43 of the 50 current municipal policies.
5. Plybon reviewed the consumer response to bag charges, noting that with a fee or tax, there is a 60% - 92% consumer behavior change, but that it also creates issues regarding accounting and administration.

6. Plybon discussed voluntary programs and referenced programs in Australia, Los Angeles County, San Francisco, and Santa Clara. He asked where resources are placed with a voluntary program. Dennis Fry asked how much voluntary programs and outright bans cost. Plybon reported that San Francisco had developed an economic report, and that the cost is associated with implementation and enforcement. It was noted that a letter to businesses and outreach information and resources was sent regarding the economic benefit from waste reduction. Farish asked about produce bags, and Plybon noted that the bans are on point of sale bags, although some ordinances require compostable produce bags.

A general discussion ensued. It was noted that the Corvallis ordinance contained a phased approach to the ban.

Hawkyard asked whether anyone had met since the last meeting. Pappalardo reported that he and Goblirsch had met, and noted that he wants the Task Force to move on.

MOTION was made by Pappalardo, seconded by Rhonda Fry, that the Task Force recommend to the City Council that it adopt the Corvallis model with a fee on paper bags. Saelens asked whether anyone had determined who the voting members are. Jones stated that the motion is out of order. McConnell noted that the motion could be tabled until the next meeting so that everyone is aware that a motion is on the table. A discussion ensued regarding the voting members, and it was determined that they are: Matt Hawkyard, representing Surfriders; Jay Fineman, representing OLCV; Mark Saelens, representing the Lincoln County Solid Waste District; Lincoln County waste haulers (one vote); Joe Gilliam, representing the NW Grocery Association; Lyle Mattson, representing large grocers; Carrie Corson, representing the Newport Farmers Market; Peggy Sabanskas, representing large retailer, non-grocery; Rhonda Fry, representing small grocers; Dennis Fry, representing small retailer, non-grocery; and at-large members: Vince Pappalardo, Steve Farish, Herb Goblirsch, Mark Jones, LeOra Johnson, Katherine Howard, and Heiner Wagener (resigned). McConnell noted that other motions could be put on the table. A discussion ensued regarding whether multiple, or a single, recommendation was preferable. Brusselback noted that a single recommendation is better. Riley stated that he is uncomfortable being the tie breaker. Saelens stated that he is hoping to avoid the same mistake as seven months ago. He suggested there could be several options including education only; a ban with or without a fee; and a middle ground with fee only and targets.

ESTABLISH NEXT MEETING DATE

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on October 11, 2012, at 5:30 P.M. It was agreed to vote on the motion on the table at the next meeting, and any others presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Goblirsch presented information about Germany. He noted that biodegradable bags are used there, and that the Germans burn garbage to make electricity. He distributed a copy of a newspaper article.

Lee Larson stated that paper bags don't work in the rain, and are inconvenient for him and others.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.