

DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Fairfax Women's Club, 46 Park Road
Wednesday, May 23, 2007

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Bragman
Susan Brandborg
Mary Ann Maggiore (7:05 p.m. arrival)
Lew Tremaine
David Weinsoff

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Kelly, Town Manager
Ian Roth, Finance Director
Judy Anderson, Town Clerk

Mayor Bragman called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Open Time

Keith Silva, 43 Sequoia, requested that the Town Council consider allowing cell towers in the Town because of the poor cell phone reception in many areas of Fairfax.

Interview and appointment of applicants to serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

The candidates addressed the Council about their backgrounds and their reasons for applying to serve on the Committee.

M/S, Bragman/Tremaine, Motion to appoint all of the candidates present to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Stephen Bryne, Renee Goddard, Chris Lang, Steven Plunkett, John Reed, Joe Stranzl, and Bob Trigg, with an approved amendment to the motion by Councilmember Brandborg to add Tamela Smith to the appointment list because she had notified the Town that she was interested but could not attend the meeting.

AYES: Bragman, Brandborg, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: None
ABSENT: Maggiore

M/S, Tremaine/Bragman, Motion to appoint Hobart Bartshire, a late arrival, to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

AYES: Bragman, Brandborg, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: None
ABSENT: Maggiore

Consent Calendar

Adoption of Resolution No. 2490, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax waiving requirements of the Public Contract Code for contracting related

to the Emergency Watershed Project at 82 and 88 Creek Road and authorizing the Town Manager award the project to a qualified contractor

Monthly report on update of General Plan and Zoning Amendments

Monthly Storm Damage Recovery Update

M/S, Tremaine/Weinsoff, Motion to adopt the Consent Calendar.

AYES: Bragman, Brandborg, Tremaine, Weinsoff
NOES: None
ABSENT: Maggiore

Waste and Recycling Workshop

Presentation by Marin Sanitary, the Town's waste franchise hauler, and Council discussion on the future of waste management, recycling and composting in Fairfax

Patty Garbarino of Marin Sanitary presented an overview of the history of Marin Sanitary including a description of their current services.

Steve Rosa of Marin Sanitary presented a history of Marin Sanitary's service in Fairfax including their role as the first recyclers in Fairfax and the current 74% recycling rate.

Joe Garbarino of Marin Sanitary described the services offered in keeping with their motto, "Conservation: Our Earth, Our Mission, Our Job." He presented a slide show and stated that 2/3 of what was collected was recycled; that they offered the County's first recycling service starting in 1980; showed a chart illustrating the steady growth in tons processed; described the state-of-the-art dual sort processing equipment installed in 2006; and stated that their mission was to get to zero waste.

Patty Garbarino led a discussion about reduction of waste and the efforts made by Marin Sanitary to reduce waste. She shared statistics about waste including the fact that the USA made up 5% of the population and produced 30% of the world's waste; that USA citizens produced 13.2 pounds of waste per person and Italian citizens produced 1.6 pounds per person. She also spoke about construction and demolition recycling; a food composting research project that was underway; their e-waste program; product responsibility for the manufacturers; efforts to get to zero-waste; the search for innovations in the industry; and continued public education, especially for school-age children, about how to recycle and protect the environment.

Marin Sanitary requested that the Town Council review the current contract and bring it up to date; that the Town consider joining the existing oversight group to take advantage of a shared professional used by the group to evaluate rates; that joining the group would provide a regulated rate approach; and that the evaluations were individualized for each jurisdiction.

There was a discussion of the portion of green waste used as alternate daily cover for unrecyclable waste at the landfill; of efforts to get CalTrans to use green waste as compost on the highways; and about composting including that a large flat area not close to a water source was needed for effective composting.

There was a discussion about the recycling of plastic and the research being done about the harmful health effects of plastic water bottles. Ms. Garbarino stated that there were 350 different types of plastic in circulation that provided another example of the country's dependence on petroleum.

Mayor Bragman opened the discussion to the public.

David Haskell, New Zealand resident, and representative of the Citizens Advisory Group for Zero Waste, stated that New Zealand was the first country with a zero waste goal. He stated that the programs described by Marin Sanitary did not represent a zero waste program; that zero waste was about elimination, not discarded materials; that the problem was the 150 million tons of material created; that Marin Sanitary shouldn't exist in another ten or fifteen years because of reverse logistics; that Marin Sanitary was a residential discard management company, not a zero waste program; that 13.2 pounds per person was not acceptable; that recycling was another type of disposal; that the most effective programs were community based; and that the goal should be to eliminate and reuse materials.

Paul Palmer, Zero Waste Institute, stated that he had coined the phrase, "zero waste", that he was the author of the book entitled, Getting to Zero Waste; that there should be a re-design of products; that a new way to address the problem was to change the way products were created and to re-design them for re-use; that it shouldn't be assumed that plastic bags and Styrofoam would continue to be produced; that bottle re-filling should be established instead of crushing glass and sending it far away and that Fairfax could study the concept; that he had dozens of ideas to promote zero waste; acknowledged that the Town had passed a zero waste resolution; asked that the Town not be seduced by old thinking; that the 77% recycling rate quoted was a joke; that the AB939 legislation allowed for green waste used to cover the landfill to be counted as recycling; and that the realistic number for current recycling was ten to twenty percent.

Bruce Baum, Ross Valley resident, Northern California Recycling; stated that he had never taken any gifts from the plastic industry; that the franchise agreement needed to be updated; acknowledged that Fairfax was the first community in Marin to pass a zero waste resolution; that Fairfax should have a provision in the agreement that allowed for half the waste at half the price like San Anselmo; that 100% of the green waste in Stinson and Bolinas was composted and suggested that Fairfax work with San Anselmo to provide a compost site at their corporation yard; that there should be incentives for people to reduce their waste as part of the franchise agreement; that how to motivate the citizens to reduce waste was important; that the franchise agreement was up for renewal; that e-waste couldn't really be recycled because of planned obsolescence and estimated that maybe 5% was actually recycled; noted that food waste from San Francisco was sent to East Bay Municipal Utility District to generate electricity; that 90% of the green waste in Sonoma County was composted; that incentives were needed to reduce waste; and suggested that Fairfax join with San Anselmo to do the rate studies needed.

Patricia Gallery, stated that having her green waste go into the landfill upset her and was not acceptable; that the Stinson-Bolinas plan should be used as a model; that she would like to have an incentive to reduce waste; that a senior discount should be included in the franchise agreement; that plastics numbered three through seven were taken by

other carriers; and suggested that a Request for Proposals be issued to consider other waste haulers.

Joe Garbarino stated that about six acres of flat land away from water sources would be needed to compost in Fairfax; that Sonoma County had the space and the market for compost; that Marin Sanitary had always offered senior discounts; that Marin Sanitary also took the plastics numbered three through seven, but that most were number one or number two; and requested a ten-year contract with Fairfax.

Mayor Bragman adjourned the meeting for a break from 9:15 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

Presentation, discussion, and possible action with respect to a Fairfax Electronic Waste (E-Waste) Program, Bragman

Mayor Bragman introduced the topic and led a discussion about the possibility of setting up a program in Fairfax.

Ms. Garbarino explained that a 40 cents per pound charge was assessed on items at the point of sale to be used for disposal; that she would look into e-waste pickup at the curb; that it would have to be economically sustainable; that the Marin Sanitary e-waste program was in conjunction with the County of Marin and the Fire Department; that they used the ACCRC company and the company reused as much as possible and distributed equipment to non-profits.

Discussion and consideration of ordinance prohibiting plastic take-out bags, Tremaine/Bragman

Mayor Bragman introduced the topic and stated that the proposed ordinance would be based on the one adopted by the City of San Francisco and would go into effect six months from adoption.

Andy Peri, Green Sangha, a non-profit organization, showed a film on plastic in the seas entitled "Our Synthetic Sea." He noted that there was six times more plastic than plankton in the ocean area they tested; that the food chain was being affected by the high amount of plastic particles in the oceans; and that there was a need to create plastic that was biodegradable and not petroleum based. Some of the dangers of plastic illustrated by the film were that 86% of the litter in the oceans was plastic; that wildlife ingested plastic at an alarming rate; that plastic contained concentrations of toxins including the plastic used to cover cheese and the plastic used in toys for children and animals; and that water in plastic bottles was not safe. Mr. Peri noted that Aquafina and Dasani bottled water was tap water.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Anderson, Town Clerk