

Minutes
Saint Paul Garbage Advisory Committee
6:30 p.m. January 6, 2022
Rondo Library
461 N Dale Street, Saint Paul

1. Introduction of Group members, City staff

Committee Members in attendance: Linda Huber, Alisa Lein, Sarah Axtmann, Drew Nelson, Celeste Marin, Gabriele Pillmann, Chris Nigel, Scott Jensen, Rosemary O'Brien, Bruce Johnson, Jessica Kliche

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. Establishment of Ground Rules

Committee discussed ground rules. No opposition or changes. Staff will send materials out to Committee members one week prior to the meeting.

3. Outline of expected work of the Committee

Susan Y. provided the timeline and parameters of the work. This Committee was formed to provide recommendations on the City's coordinated collection for garbage service to 1–4-unit dwellings. The next few meetings will focus on providing background and overview of the existing contract.

The Committee will then develop a set of recommendations which will be presented in a report to City Council and the Mayor. All recommendations made by the Committee will be presented. Members of the Committee will have a chance to review the report before it is submitted. The decision on how to proceed will be up to the City Council.

It is the goal of the Committee to have this report to City Council by May or June of 2022 to allow the City to have time to incorporate any necessary changes in the 2023 budget.

4. Overview of existing conditions

a. Residential Garbage and Recycling collection overview

b. Agreement with Saint Paul Haulers LLC

Moved to next meeting as part of Garbage 101.

5. What is Working/Not Working Right Now?

What not like/not working?

- Lost bargaining power with lots of garbage haulers
- Don't promote the benefits of the system – bulkies
- Cost – increase in cost from previous system
- Not working for households with small amounts of trash
- No multi-container discounts for a single property – don't get additional bulkies with additional containers
- Have to have 6 containers for property
- Still see multiple haulers/trucks down my street – no decrease in trucks
- Not able to share carts within the same property – so many carts that we don't need to use
- Homeowner's association management of garbage was broken up – previously had a dumpster and now carts
- Bulky pickup for renters – owner needs to call it in
- Don't provide service to over 4 units – no full unification for the City
- Frontline staff at haulers don't know the details of the City's contract
- Garbage lid open over 3 inches and being fined – arguments with haulers over this
- Vacation/suspended service – don't like having to complete form/process to do this
- Lack of community around the issue – no recognition that this is a service for everyone and that we all need to contribute to the overall wellbeing
- Cost – higher, increases
- Less garbage tonnage/smaller containers for higher cost
- Doesn't promote the reduction of waste – if you throw out more than you pay more
- Administrative fee on property taxes has increased
- No opt out option – especially for zero wasters/waste reduction
- Not able to have dumpsters for multi-family
- Inability to manage our own garbage as a homeowner association – with multiple carts/billed to individual properties
- Didn't like the way the contract was negotiated – City council asked for negotiations
- Position of carts in the alleys

Likes/working?

- No one can opt out – everyone has to participate
- Already set up for us – don't have to figure out garbage – Citywide system
- Fewer trucks on the road
- Service hold being an option
- Bulky pickups
- Walkup service
- Consistency of day of the week pickup in the same neighborhood
- More equitable to have a Citywide system – garbage haulers have to serve all parts of City
 - o Allowed some people to have garbage service who didn't have it before
- One day a week in neighborhood – less trucks
- Love idea of Citywide program
- Like the program – don't have too many complaints
- Only 3 trucks in the alley
- Good and friendly service

5. Initial list of topics the Committee wishes to cover

Time ran out. This topic was not covered specifically, however many of the items in the dislike list may fall under this category.

6. Confirmation of date/time of next meeting

- Will do a hybrid option
- 2 weeks from tonight
- 1/20 at 6:30pm
- Rondo Library

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