

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: Gabriele Pillmann, Linda Huber, Alisa Lein, Celeste Marin, Sarah Axtmann, Scott Jensen, Drew Nelson, Rosemary O'Brien, Andrew Rorvig, Robin Graham, Jessica Kliche, 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. Approval of Minutes of 2/17/2022 meeting

Minutes approved

3. Questions/comments from previous meeting

None

4. Presentation from Haulers' Consortium and Questions from the Committee

Consortium members introduced themselves:

- Greg Revering, St. Paul Haulers, LLC. - Thanks for allowing us this time. Introduce haulers
Address questions
- Darrel Hoekstra – Waste Management, 23 yrs with Waste Management
 - o Consortium – remember first meeting with 14 haulers and Saint Paul – how are we going to get 14 haulers to agree on a contract. Lots of meetings. Came to agreement with the City. Period of time there are things that worked better and other worse
- Rob Swanson – Waste Management
- Bobby Stewart – Highland Sanitation– manage operations – family business
- Gene Wegleitner – Gene's Disposal – dad started business in 1968 and my wife and I bought it in 2001. Took a lot of time to figure out routing. We've worked really hard
- Matt Koupal with Advanced Disposal – newest. Thanks
- Bev – Republic Services, Operations Manager 7yrs in waste industry. Thanks
- Dave Poole – Aspen Waste Systems – Thanks
- Derrick – Aspen Waste Systems

From Greg:

Positives of the contract

- Less trucks – specific hauler sections; routing system reduced the miles – carbon footprint
- Efficiencies
 - o Favorable price that Saint Paul residents have
- Consortium has national and local companies
 - o Part of the Saint Paul economy
- Consortium acts as a single entity. Might be some misconceptions about that
 - o This is a group of people that has to work together
 - o Team work
 - o Each company has their own way of doing things. Best practices are what come across. We have to talk through everything
 - Discussion about what to do
- We want to renew the contract and continue to work with all of you
- Still have individual touch
 - o Highland – Suni Lee parade; were able to get garbage for the parade within a couple of hours
 - o Able to reach out to all the haulers and have one that is able to do the requested service
- Consortium and this contract have done – its cleaner a City; talked about in the Highland report
 - o Bulkies – is it perfect no; still work on it
 - o Cleaner better City

Issues with the Contract

- Opt outs - consortium is open on how we move forward on this with the City
 - o Zero wasters
 - o Townhomes
 - o Need to work with the City on this
- Dumpsters at larger locations or townhomes
 - o Agree
 - o Cumbersome to have lots of carts
 - o Work with the City on this – willing to negotiate and work on this
- Consortium is open to understanding how bulkies are handled
 - o Confusing with multi-units – do get bulkies per cart; but by address get less than should
 - o Want to improve this
 - o Extra carts don't count but cart per unit does get bulkies
 - o Open and willing to talk about this
- Pricing
 - o We don't know the scope for a new contract if goes to RFP
 - o We talk about where we are; looking at the economy don't know fuel costs and all the information
 - o Hard to say what are bottom line is tonight – need to understand the scope of the work/contract
 - o A lot of the cost is the Ramsey County taxes – 28%; Disposal costs
 - Lots of pass through costs – no profit to hauler or City
 - o With the economy – cost of trucks, fuel, drivers
 - o Need to know the scope of work to figure out pricing

- Current contract – fuel costs doesn't increase unless above \$5 per gallon
- 65 gallon cart - \$96.56 per quarter
 - Of that bill – 35% of bill is what the hauler has influence on
 - Base rate - \$11.44 per month - \$34.32 is base rate – this is what we negotiate on for the cost
 - Only spot for price increase from hauler
 - Rest is the taxes and cost of disposal
 - CPI applied to base rate only
- More to discuss in the total of pricing
- Willing to work on/negotiate in the future
- Yes, admin fee and taxes

Answers to questions for haulers from last meeting

- What can consortium offer? What is the bottom line?
 - Open to changes in the contract – cart sharing, dumpsters, opt out; need to understand City's perspective
- What is working for Consortium with contract?
 - Zones – carbon foot print reduced, efficiencies
- What improve?
 - Alley maintenance – snow removal, ice
 - Residents bag trash
 - Quicker replenishment of carts when ordered from the City
- Are dumpsters better than multiple containers?
 - Depends on property
 - Willing to work with City to make this change
- Penalty fee for having a popped lid cart – where does it come from?
 - Squirrels
 - Open carts = attract squirrels, etc.
 - It's a volume based service so waste needs to stay in the container; cleaner
 - Charge is for the extra volume – if don't charge for it than people won't change cart size when needed
 - Its not ment to hurt residents but encourage people to change cart size to right size
- Single vs 2 man trucks
 - Depends on location, hauler and trucks
 - Automated trucks – lower cost staffing
 - Service seems to be less with single driver – shared this concerned with haulers so it can be improved
- Safety
 - Rear load truck – driver in back dumping cart; vs auto – safety from being hit from vehicles

Consortium is willing to work with the residents and City to renegotiate; work on a new contract

- Want to continue to work together

Additional questions/comments to haulers during the meeting

- Popped lid charge; it should go the other way as well if no trash in the can then there should be a credit; the mostly empty carts should get a credit
- Cleaner City
 - o No correlation between illegal dumping and new garbage
 - o Answer from Susan – illegal dumping has gone down but there is a problem of people dumping along highway
 - o Haulers: residents are using the bulkies; less garbage within the City streets than right by the highways; Not going to stop it completely
- How cost was decided for the sizes of containers
 - o Challenge is the primary expense is the truck and the driver
 - o Cost to provide service is the same – flat cost regardless of size
 - o Weight difference between carts = the differences
- Why pay more for 3 small than 1 large at different properties
- Smaller cart should be a lot less
 - o There are fixed costs for truck going down the street
 - o Disposal costs
 - Every other week - \$1.67
 - Weekly - \$3
 - Medium - \$6
 - Largest - \$9
 - o Contract spells out weight of disposal is factored in to the cost formula
 - o Could negotiate differently in the future – open to this
- Customer service issue – not always good; call center and collection; getting translators; calling and getting staff in another state who don't know the rules
 - o Call centers do have translation services or can use the City
 - o Customer service issues – speak to individual issues
 - o Susan – issues: missed collections; misinformation; long waits; bills going out late; Christmas trees not being picked up
 - o Bulkies – fight to get them picked up; including Christmas tree; call center doesn't know what is going on
 - Rob – Waste Management – hiccups in Nov-Jan; COVID issues – 20% of staff out; brought in drivers from other states; we will do better; have put in contingency plans in place to rearrange how we operate
 - Waste Management call center – in WI but staff are focused solely on Saint Paul
 - Willing to make adjustments to improve
 - Every driver is tracked – can find out if they go to your house; have the technology and visibility – will be able to see snap shots of your service
- Why better working with consortium vs. RFP and finding one hauler?
- Pre-organized trash – had one large cart at a triplex and now 3 carts – less efficient
 - o City wanted every unit to have a container
 - o We're willing to negotiate and do something different – would require an addendum to contract

- Things that could be improved in the next contract
- Small carts are efficient in shape
- Open to negotiate and last week said not open
 - o Last week – individual haulers won't negotiate separately; consortium is willing to negotiate
- How does having a cart per unit benefit City?
 - o Challenge – making sure that everyone is disposing trash appropriately
 - o If they don't have a service assigned to them; there's no way to know that they are disposing of garbage correctly
 - o How to allow opt out and still make sure people are disposing of trash appropriately
 - o Could be other alternative solutions
- Don't want opt out; area where illegal dumping went down
- Comments from non-committee members online:
 - o City should put this out to bid
 - o Every other week – shouldn't be paying for service when not getting it
 - If everyone went everyother week, cost should be half – aren't requiring service
 - o Liked to hear from committee member about opting out
 - o I have hauled my garbage to Twin Cities refuse
 - o Angry about mandatory cart
- Consortium holds each hauler accountable
 - o Ex: Greg called Waste Management
 - o Accountability to each other; don't get this with a single hauler

5. Review of "Buckets from 2/17 meeting – continue to develop recommendations for report to Mayor and Council

How to move forward?

- Comments from non-committee members – how to include in the report
- At next meeting, have time for non-committee members make comments
 - o How to let them know they can do this?
 - Put on the website; social media; let Councilmembers know; committee members can send out
 - Send email to all Councilmembers – time to comment online or in-person at the next meeting
 - Lots of suggestions and ideas in the comments that have already come in – like on-demand pick-up
 - Bring in my perspective, but don't represent everyone in my ward – we are volunteers; opportunity to sign up
 - 58 people applied – selected 18 to balance wards, type of service/property, etc.
 - o Opportunity to comment on contract process? Public comment period following the RFP?
 - Renewal process to existing contract – can't make huge changes
 - RFP

- Work of this committee would be reflected in an RFP
- This would be better opportunity to hear from community
- Once RFP has been written and vetted less opportunity to make big changes

How to order the report?

- Intro – lay out the scope of the committee and the position that we’re playing; not the negotiators
 - Who we are
 - What we did and how this fits into the broader process
- Pluses helpful, but duplicates
 - Go through and do this again once we’ve cleaned it up so that we really have pluses
- Susan will try and eliminate duplicates, incorporate non-committee member comments
 - Get this to the Committee a week ahead of time

6. Confirmation of date/time of next meeting

Next meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. – Rondo Library Multipurpose Room

- 20 minutes at front end for non-committee members
 - Will send information about this opportunity to Council members

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