

Organics Management Residential Advisory Committee

November 16, 2016 Meeting Summary

Submitted by Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 from 6 – 8 p.m. Location: Wheeler Center

Participants: See Page 3

Agenda: See Attachment #1

1. Welcome: Christina Gomes, Ann Arbor Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator welcomed the participants, introduced the City Staff and the Project Team, and reviewed the project objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive Organics Management Plan to identify options for diverting organic wastes from the trash stream.
- The plan will include input from a diverse range of stakeholders, including residents, businesses, and institutions.
- When complete, the plan will identify opportunities and needs for organics waste management, evaluate resource and logistic needs for alternative management options, and develop a strategy for implementing selected alternatives.
- Work on the Organics Management Plan started in April 2016 and will be completed in early 2017.
- The City has contracted with CB&I Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc., a national waste and recycling consulting firm, to develop the Organics Management Plan, with public engagement support from Project Innovations, Inc.

2. Participant Desired Outcomes: Charlie Fleetham, Project Innovations facilitator, polled the participants on their desired outcomes. Committee feedback included:

- How will this program be communicated?
- Let's improve and expand on our current programs to multi-family and condos.
- My big concern is how will the City address the new university hi-rises. Composting is not required in these buildings. This is a huge opportunity we are ignoring. I think students would be open to composting.

3. Feedback on the Compost Facility Tour – the tour was conducted on November 15 and many of the Advisory Committee members participated. Comments on the tour included:

- Very appreciative ... amazed at how well it operates with two men.
- This is a showcase for the City.
- The City should schedule more regular tours and use the Facility to as a branding tool for the City's environmental awareness.
- Should consider a video or an article in the Observer about the facility.

4. Separation Anxiety - we played a podcast provided by Caroline which describes how Taipei, Taiwan, manages its waste. <http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/separation-anxiety/>
Comments included:

- Like the fact that their system charges more if you have more trash.
- San Francisco has a “pay as you throw” program.
- The Mayor from our sister city in Germany gave a presentation on waste management and the auditorium was packed.
- Momo, Sweden uses vacuum tubes to remove the organic waste from households and deposits it in a bio-digester.

5. Promotion/Education – Christina Seibert led a discussion on how the City might promote expanded composting. Comments included:

- Why don’t people compost? It is universally available, but only 20% of the City residents have carts (according to our best estimates).
- Could we reduce the cost of the cart?
- Could we deliver the cart to the residence?
- We should contact the university coordinators (Molly/Nick) who work very effectively with students on composting.
- We need some videos that teach middle schoolers about composting. Make it very simple and show the benefits to the environment!

6. Project/Residential Survey Update - Christina Seibert updated the committee on the project and survey:

- Meetings with Commercial Advisory Committee continue.
- The team is estimating quantities for the financial alternatives.
- We will be providing preliminary recommendations prior to the January 18 meeting for your comments.
- Regarding the residential survey – many helpful comments/suggestions were received. The survey contractor will review the feedback and some modifications will be made to the survey. The survey is scheduled to be started November 28.

All meeting summaries, agendas, and presentations are available at:

<http://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/Pages/Organics-Management-Plan-.aspx>

11/16/16 Residential Advisory Committee Participant List

Last	First	Organization
Crockett	Christine	Old Fourth Ward Association
Fleetham	Charlie	Project Innovations
Gomes	Christina	A2 Systems Planning
Held	John	Brookside Subdivision
Larose	Caroline	University of Michigan
McCall	Clark	ICPJ - Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Naud	Matt	A2 Systems Planning
Nikolai	Judy	Resident
Seibert	Christina	CB&I Project Manager
Steele	Shelley	Sunset Hilltop Neighborhood Association