

MINUTES OF THE PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

October 23, 1989

Council Chamber

**Task Force Members Present:** Lissa Wienholt, Scott Ashcom, Peggy Lovell, Charlotte Becker, Jerry Herrmann, Jeff Gage and Bill Martin

**Others Present:** Karen Griffin, June Hensala, Marge Dittman, Susan Ferris, Bob Martin, Vickie Rocker, Sara Vickerman, Ray Barker and Joel Arrio

Acting Chair Ray Barker called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**1. Public Affairs Advertising Report on Recycling**

Vickie Rocker, Director of Public Affairs, discussed Metro's advertising campaigns, distributed brochures and said the Public Affairs Department actively encouraged recycling. She said each year the department assembled a marketing program on what was to be emphasized for that year. She said what to emphasize was determined by the annual waste composition study. She discussed yard debris recycling and said Metro liked to target beginning recyclers. She said this year's campaign would emphasize office paper recycling. She noted Metro's Recycling Information Center would connect callers with the closest outlet for any recyclable. She discussed Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days which occurred twice a year. She discussed Recycling Day held at the Zoo October 7, 1989. She said it had been difficult to encourage people to recycle yard debris because it was necessary to take the yard debris to Grimm's or McFarlane's Bark. She noted the Metro brochure "Art of Composting" was popular with gardeners. Jerry Herrmann asked Ms. Rocker what the Public Affairs Department budget was. Ms. Rocker said their budget for waste reduction was \$250,000 annually.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM**

Acting Chair Barker noted an additional agenda item not listed on the agenda. He introduced Susan Ferris, Blue Parrot, who was in attendance at this meeting to discuss the McDonald's Recycling program. Ms. Ferris showed slides which demonstrated how the McDonald's program to recycle polystyrene worked. She discussed how the program was initiated, its progress, and advantages of recycling polystyrene.

Those present discussed the McDonald's Recycling Program and asked Ms. Ferris questions. Ms. Ferris said Denton Plastics picked up the polystyrene from McDonald's. She noted when the City of Portland ban on polystyrene became effective in November, the program would end within the city limits. Ms. Ferris discussed who was likely to recycle. Those present discussed the program and the recycling of polystyrene further.

**METRO PLASTICS RECYCLING TASK FORCE**

October 23, 1989

Page 2

**2. Report on OSPIRG's Packaging Initiative**

Acting Chair Barker introduced Joel Arrio, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group, who said his organization represented the interests of the general public at the state legislature and was funded by small groups. He said OSPIRG decided to tackle solid waste issues including packaging. He said packaging did not affect product availability and was primarily unnecessary. He said because the state legislature rejected the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) proposal for \$2 million to promote recycling, OSPIRG chose to launch an initiative for environmentally sound packaging. He said such packaging would be reusable at least five times and said "recyclable" was measured by the overall recycling rate for materials used to make the packaging. He discussed a similar Massachusetts initiative. He discussed recycled packaging which would be composed of at least 50 percent recyclable material. He said OSPIRG did not address biodegradable issues. He discussed how OSPIRG planned to promote environmentally sound packaging. Those present asked Mr. Arrio questions on the initiative. Mr. Arrio and the Task Force discussed the issues further.

**3. Interim Legislative Committee Meetings and Their Work Plans**

Acting Chair Barker noted Chair Kirkpatrick was not able to attend this meeting and deferred Agenda Item No. 3 to a future meeting.

Acting Chair Barker adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paulette Allen  
Committee Clerk  
PRTF89.296