



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes RECYCLING TASK FORCE

*PRESTON COLE, CHAIR*

*Ald. Joe Dudzik, Michael J. Daun, Lisa Schaal, and Erick Shambarger*

*Staff Assistant, Terry MacDonald*

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Monday, April 6, 2009

1:30 PM

Room 301-A, City Hall

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Meeting convened: 1:31 P.M.

### 1. Introduction of Members

*Members introduced themselves.*

**Present** 5 - Cole, Daun, Dudzik, Shambarger and Schaal

*Also present:*

*Rick Meyers, Environmental Recycling Specialist, James Carroll, Legislative Reference Bureau, Jim Michalski, Comptroller's Auditing Division*

### 2. Presentation given by Jim Owczarski, Deputy City Clerk, relative to meeting rules, procedures and the open records laws

*Deputy City Clerk Jim Owczarski appeared and discussed various aspects of the state Open Records and Open Meetings laws.*

*Mr. Cole asked if this body is required to use the Robert Rules of Order?*

*Mr. Owczarski replied in the affirmative.*

### 3. Discussion of the purpose, responsibilities and goals of the Task Force

*Mr. Cole said Common Council resolution File #081212 created this task force and directs it to do a number of things that were recommended in the recycling audit done by the City Comptroller's Office. It also directs the task force to submit its findings to the Common Council within six months and the six months began on January 16, 2009, and ends on July 16, 2009. He said, if needed, the time period to submit the findings can be extended.*

*Mr. Shambarger asked if there is any expectation as to the timeline for the submission of the recommendations as it relates to the 2010 Budget?*

*Mr. Cole replied that the resolution doesn't say anything related to that issue, but it would be up to this task force to determine if there are issues that could be considered and recommendations made that would affect the City's 2010 budget.*

*Mr. Daun said that the resolution lists a number of recommendations and asked which recommendations will this task force need to look at?*

*Mr. Cole replied that it is his understanding that this task force will need to review several of the audit recommendations, which will include the fiscal and operational impacts of a conversion to single stream recycling as well as an overview of the current recycling program. He said he will prepare a list of all the issues this task force will need to take a look at and have Ms. MacDonald forward it to all the members.*

*Mr. Cole said this task force could also do a review of the recycling audit.*

*Mr. Cole said he will have Mr. Rick Meyers, recycling specialist, appear before the task force to give an overview of the City's current recycling program.*

*Ald. Dudzik said the Council's main reason in creating this task force is to take a look at a single stream recycling program. He said the other recommendations listed in the resolution are to be addressed by the Department of Public Works.*

*Mr. Shambarger asked if the recycling enforcement is going to be considered by this task force?*

*Mr. Cole said he has had a number of conversations with the City Attorney's office regarding section 79 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances and feels that this task force should look at the enforcement process of the City's Recycling program.*

*Mr. Daun suggested that it may be useful, once DPW staff conduct a review of the enforcement process, for DPW to give this task force an overview of the recycling enforcement process and then the task force can determine if it needs to be dealt with further.*

*All the task force members confirmed that they know what a single stream recycling program is.*

*Mr. Cole said he will provide the task force with an overview of the City's current recycling waste hauler contract.*

*Mr. Shambarger asked if DPW can provide information on the staffing implications as it relates to dual stream system compare to a single stream recycling program?*

*Mr. Cole replied in the affirmative.*

*Mr. Daun asked if DPW could provided information on other cities recycling program?*

*Mr. Meyers appeared at the table and said that there are other large cities that use a single stream recycling program.*

*Ald. Dudzik asked if DPW could provide data on the volume of recyclables the city has collected per year?*

*Mr. Meyers replied in the affirmative.*

*Mr. Cole said that the task force members could also plan to take a tour of a single stream recycling program. He said Germantown has a single stream recycling program.*

*Mr. Meyers offered to provide a virtual tour.*

*Mr. Daun commented that the City of Milwaukee recycling educational brochure indicates that plastic containers with the numbers one or two are recyclable, but plastic containers that have the numbers three through seven are not and he was wondering if other Cities have that same requirement.*

*Ald. Dudzik said that he was at a recycling presentation in either another City in Wisconsin or Illinois and it was stated that if there is a question as to if an item is recyclable, just put it in the recyclable bin and the City will determine if it is recyclable.*

*Mr. Cole said that the question is, how can the City get the residents to recycle more, because the more recyclable collected the more money the City makes.*

*Ald. Dudzik asked when does the current recycling contract expire?*

*Mr. Meyers replied that the current contract expires in July 1, 2009 and there is extension of every two years thereafter.*

*Ald. Dudzik said there may be a gas savings in using a single steam recycling program.*

*Mr. Cole ask Mr. Meyers to bring pictures and any other information on what type of equipment the City uses in its dual-stream recycling program.*

*Ald. Nik Kovac appeared and suggested that this task force consider looking at incentives or reward system for recycling. He said the City could give a refund by weight for all recyclables picked up.*

*Mr. Cole asked the task force members if they would like to look at the "Pay As You Throw" program? All members replied in the affirmative.*

*Ms. Schaal asked how does MPS handling its recyclables?*

*Mr. Meyers replied that MPS has a private contract and it is a cost saving for MPS to do it that way.*

**4. Set next meeting agenda**

*Agenda items for future meetings:*

- 1. Discussion relating to task force role*
- 2. Presentation given by Dept. of Public Works, Sanitation Division staff on the City's current recycling program*
- 3. Overview of the single stream recycling operation*
- 4. Overview of the "Pay As You Throw" program*
- 5. Report on how the City of Milwaukee recycling program compares to other Wisconsin cities*
- 6. Discussion on how the weather can impact the recycling program*

**5. Set next meeting date(s)**

*Future meeting dates:*

*April 27, 2009*

*May 18, 2009*

*June 8, 2009*

*June 29, 2009, at this meeting it will be determined if an extension of time will be needed for the submission of the final recommendations to the Common Council.*

*All meetings will begin at 1:30 P.M.*

**Meeting adjourned: 2:24 P.M.**

**Terry J. MacDonald**  
**Staff Assistant**