



Community Services Advisory Commission
February 9, 2021
(Virtual Meeting)
Minutes

Commission Members: **Present:** Steve Dritz, Vivekanandan Arunachalam, Tom Strup, Alice (Dee) Kanonchoff, Elizabeth McClain, Gary Gassin, Jim Snider

Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Nick Plouck, Management Assistant
Michael Darling, Operations Administrator

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

Mr. Dritz established that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

With virtual assembly, meetings are advertised and the public has the ability to submit public comments in advance of the meeting. No comments were submitted for this meeting.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 12, 2021 meeting were distributed via email for review. Mr. Dritz asked if there were any revisions to the meeting minutes. There were no revisions. Ms. Kanonchoff motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Arunachalam seconded the motion. All in favor, the January meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Compost Drop-off Pilot Program (Michael Darling)

Michael Darling, Operations Administrator provided a brief introduction about himself.

Mr. Darling started the food composting presentation by explaining that in 2019 the City decided to write a Community Waste Reduction Grant to be funded by SWACO (Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio). This grant would provide funding for a food waste station to help reduce the City's waste stream percentages. It was determined that residents could turn food scraps into compostable materials. Composting is the aerobic decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. It transforms raw materials, such as leaves, grass clippings, garden trimmings, food scraps, and agricultural residues into compost, a valuable earthy smelling soil conditioner.

Mr. Darling continued to share information regarding the Franklin County Sanitary Landfill. Every year U.S. landfills and trash incinerators receive 167 million tons of garbage. He explained that 50% of the typical municipal garbage set out at the curb is compostable. He explained that 21% are food scraps alone. Franklin County receives over one million pounds of food scraps that are transported to the landfill each day. The balance of the 50% of the compostable items include 15% paper/cardboard, 8% yard trimmings and 8% is wood waste. Food scraps have been identified as the largest opportunity for increasing the diversion rate. Mr. Darling explained that food scraps contribute between 15% - 18% of the current land fill capacity.

Mr. Darling said the organic food waste per yard is between 680 - 1,500 pounds and non-organic is between 175-225 pounds per yard. The organic waste retains more water and it weighs more, so if residents are able to keep more organic waste out of the trash trucks, then it does less damage to the roads and we need fewer trucks. The trucks can only haul approximately 40,000 pounds before they have to dump them. If residents can remove more of the organic waste out of the trash, then less trucks are needed and ultimately the cost of trash services in Dublin could be reduced. Mr. Darling said in 2020 Dublin serviced 14,180 residential homes and the municipal solid waste was 11,969 tons, commingled recycling was 4,851 tons and yard waste was 3,371 tons. The diversion rate was 40.77%. If the City can capture the 5,526.33 tons of food waste that is still available to capture than the diversion rate could be 53.50%.

Mr. Darling identified the additional tonnage included in trash pickup. Household hazardous waste contributes to 24.31 tons. The electronic waste is 17.58 tons. The City tries to reduce the amount of electronics that go into the landfill and the City encourages our residents to take advantage of the electronic recycling drop off, which is at the Dublin Service Center. The other items included in the additional tonnage are Paper shredding, food waste recycling, scrap metal, additional yard waste, chipping and leaf collection.

Mr. Darling explained that the City applied for the SWACO Community Waste Reduction Grant which is funding that was provided by the Franklin County Land Fill, otherwise known as SWACO. The purpose was to help divert the maximum amount of material from the landfill. The grant could be used for anything from compactors, Styrofoam condensers to food waste drop-off stations. The initial grant request was written in 2019 for the initial value of \$9,012 for an established food waste drop-off. The grant provided funding for the City to create a corral for the food waste. Staff was able to contract with a GoZero for composting services; along with purchasing 500 composting buckets from GoZero for the first 500 residents that registered online. The City's goal is to divert approximately 78,000 pounds of food waste during the first year from August 2020 through August 2021. This means the City will need to collect 1,500 pounds per week to reach our goal.

Mr. Darling shared the information about the website the City created which is www.cityofdublinohiousa.gov/compost. Residents can register on this website and receive timely updates regarding changes in food drop off operations and progress, as well as Rumpke news and the City's green initiatives. Mr. Darling recommend that residents register to get up-

to-date information. Also, as stated before the city provided free buckets for first 500 registrants. We currently have 658 residents registered, but we still have approximately 30 buckets left, so not all of the first 500 registered were interested in using the City's composting bucket, but we do know the residents are using the program, because staff keeps expanding the services. GoZero is the service provide Dublin is using for the food composting. The City currently has (12) 65-gallon containers on site. GoZero switches out the full containers each week with cleaned and sanitized containers. They take the food waste to Dayton to a correctional institute. The inmates sort through the food waste and sort out contamination along with mixing the food waste to get air into for the composting process. The composting buckets that were distributed to residents have a lid that is provided to keep it covered and this helps reduce odor. The residents need to make sure they are using a compostable trash bag as a liner for the buckets. When residents purchase these bags they should say "BPI compostable" on them. The bags will break down over time as food is added to them. These bags can be purchased at a number of different locations including Whole Foods, Fresh Thyme and Kroger. Alternatives, if the resident doesn't want to purchase bags, would be to use the paper bags from Kroger's or Fresh Thyme, but residents should not use the plastic bags from grocery stores. A box of 100 liners (six gallon liners) is approximately \$25.00.

Mr. Darling said the food scrap corral is located at the Dublin Service Center at 6555 Shier-Rings Road. There is a 20' x 8' container corral with a 40" front for visibility. GoZero prefers our design for other communities to use for their composting. It is located in the front parking lot for the convenience of our residents. It's clean and efficient and easily accessible by our residents and Go Zero.

Mr. Darling provide the list of acceptable items and non-acceptable items which include the following:

- Acceptable Items: Fruits, vegetables, grains, pasta, baked goods, beans, coffee grounds, coffee filters, tea bags, eggs, eggshells, dairy, cooked and raw meat, wood, shellfish, seafood, bones, cut up greasy pizza boxes, soiled non-coated paper products, napkins, tissues, pumpkins, dead flowers, and BPI Certified Compostable Plastic Items including liners, straws, plates, bowls, knives and spoons
- Non-Acceptable Items: Rocks, stone, glass, metal, steel, tin, aluminum foil, electronics, Styrofoam, personal health care products, pharmaceuticals, non-compostable packaging, coated paper/fiber products, and non BPI Certified plastic items.

Mr. Darling shared some of the results from 2020:

- Finished 2020 with 639 active registrants
- Collected 29,584 pounds of residential food waste
- 1,740 pounds of food waste collected each week
- Increased service to (12) 65 Gallon GoZero carts serviced weekly

- Equivalent impact of taking a car off of the road for 1,345 days!
- The City of Dublin Food Scrap Composting Platform is being utilized as the model for rolling out new programs throughout Ohio

Mr. Darling explained where the City is at so far in 2021:

- Increased to 658 Active Registrants
- Increased to 1,971 pounds of food waste collected per week
- 9856 pounds collected so far since January 1, 2021
- Total food waste collected to date from inception is 39,440 pounds
- Equivalent Environmental Impact of removing 1 car from the road for 1,793 days
- Currently setting at 50.5% of goal at week #25

Mr. Darling said something staff did not foresee in the fall was pumpkin recycling. Residents were bringing whole pumpkins to the food waste containers which means there was a lot less room for the other food waste. We did run into one instance where we can composting sitting on the pavement because the bins were all full. Luckily this occurred on a Saturday evening when the bins were full and GoZero picked up on Sunday, so GoZero made staff aware of it. Pumpkins are great for composting because of high water content. When it comes to composting food waste, it tends to get very dry based on the food that is recycled and GoZero will need to add additional water for the food to compost properly, so the pumpkins help the composting process. In 2021 the City will have a pumpkin composting event at the Dublin Recreation Center in the fall. More details will be available later in the year.

Mr. Darling said the City hopes to expand the food waste recycling in 2022 or 2023 to have a second location at the north end of Dublin. The city will need to be cautious of placing a second location too close to residential areas. The current food waste drop-off site, located at the Dublin Service Center, is within 100 feet of the front door. Some of the issues that could occur and that staff has reviewed through the first 25 weeks of the program are as follows:

- One Instance of demand exceeding capacity. Items were laying on ground less than 12 hours (Caused by excessive number of pumpkins placed in GoZero containers)
- No instances of rats, raccoons, opossums, skunks, or groundhogs getting into containers
- Occasionally during warmer weather there is a slight smell within 50 feet of corral
- There have not been any major issues with insects. Some flies around outside of container. Spray vinegar mixture for control during summer
- No reports of illegal dumping
- Continuous purity score of no less than 9, the best possible is 10

Mr. Darling shared some photos of the food waste drop-off stations in Upper Arlington, Westerville and Worthington. These municipalities were the first to start this program. They have upgraded some of their stations and some have expanded with another area, but none of these municipalities are collecting as much food as Dublin is currently. Dublin residents should be very

proud of what we have accomplished in such a short period. Our residents have really taken ownership of the program and participated.

Mr. Darling provided the website again where residents can register for the composting program. Also, just a reminder there are still a few composting buckets at the Service Center for those residents that register by visiting the website at www.dublinohiousa.gov/compost. He also provided the website for SWACO at <https://www.swaco.org> and GoZero at <https://gozero.org>. Both of these organization provide great information on composting. Some residents have asked for information on purchasing the compost that created from the Dublin's food recycling. Residents can visit Fork2Farm at the link provided <https://gozero.org/marketplace.com>.

Mr. Daring said this concludes his presentation and asked if any commission members have questions.

Mr. Dritz asked if the City of Dublin pays for this service for food waste recycling.

Mr. Darling said the service is initially paid for by the Community Solid Waste Reduction Grant. The City received approximately \$9,000 to pay GoZero for their services including the purchase of the \$500 buckets. There was a match to the grant of \$1,600 and that funding helped for the first year of services. This initial program is a pilot program. If it is deemed successful then we would add this funding to our budget, which is approximately \$10,000 per year to continue services. With over 600 residents utilizing this service, more than likely we will continue this service after the first year has been complete.

Mr. Darling continued to explain if the City continues with this program, hopefully it will pay dividends in the future as we remove these items from the waste stream. We should see our community cost come down. This next bid cycle for trash will have some different factors such as increased hauler cost due to COVID and fuel prices increasing. One of the changes that staff would like to add to the trash/recycling contract is to have a cart content clause in it. This would allow the contractor to use the system in place for pickup and it would make the process more consistent in the process and the timeframe weekly.

Mr. Snider congratulated Mr. Darling on this pilot program. It has really taken off from the first day of implementation.

Mr. Darling thanked Mr. Snider. Mr. Darling said it has been a great program. Other than a few minor adjustments staff has had to make, it really has been great. The City has had other communities reaching out to us, asking how we implemented the program and the process because it has been so successful.

Mr. Snider asked if there has been any consideration on a composting container that residents could keep at their homes and do their own composting rather than having to bring the food scraps some place to compost.

Mr. Darling said that would be a great idea and he will look into it further. There are some composting companies that will provide a container also and they will have a composting station within a neighborhood. There are different requirements and there is a monthly cost for that type of service.

Mr. Dritz said a few years ago he attended a MORPC presentation and Bexley was talking about how Bexley was one of the first communities doing composting. Is Bexley still using the same type of program as Dublin or do they have their own program? What is the success of Bexley's program?

Mr. Darling said he was involved in that program briefly when he worked for Rumpke, but it was also a pilot program that was through a specific vendor. It was actually a curbside program. Mr. Darling is not sure what the status of that program is. He thought Bexley had some hiccups with the initial program, but he believes Bexley still has some type of food waste recycling program, but he is not sure what the specifics of their program are.

Mr. Plouck said he could follow-up with the City of Bexley to find out some more information about their food waste program.

Ms. Kanonchoff said she wanted to give Mr. Darling a thumbs up because the City's food waste pilot program is a great program that she uses frequently. She does not want to see this program go away.

Mr. Darling thanked Ms. Kanonchoff and said it has been a pleasure working with the community to get this program up and running. Dublin residents have been great about owning this program and making sure it succeeds. Mr. Darling thanked the commission for listening to his presentation. If anyone has any further questions, feel free to reach out to Mr. Darling.

V. Solid Waste and Recycling Contract Update

Mr. Plouck said he sent some information out to the commission regarding this topic. The topic is basically status quo right now and there have been no major changes to this contract. Mr. Plouck said Mr. Darling is looking at exploring some ideas with the current contract and he may be interested in bringing some of those ideas back to this commission to provide feedback.

VI. Other Items of Interest

Mr. Plouck said at this time there are no specific topics or tasks that have been handed down from City Council. Mr. Plouck said he can draft a memo in regards to what this commission has been working on over the past few months, along with the presentations that have been provided. The memo can include some of the items of interest that this commission is interested in working on. Mr. Plouck can have this commission review the memo before it goes to Council and request that Council discuss some opportunities for this commission to work on in the future.

Mr. Dritz said he had a conversation with the Mayor and Vice Mayor brainstorming some topics for this commission to work on. They discussed the fact that this commission has not been assigned any projects since the stormwater fees in 2019. Mr. Dritz was curious if any other commission members have talked to members of Council.

Mr. Arunachalam said he also had a similar conversation. After speaking with them both, Mr. Arunachalam feels that there are things in the works and there will be some projects that will be assigned to this commission in the future. Some of the topics discussed were the new park development in the Bridge Street area and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. So hopefully we will have some topics to work on in the near future.

Ms. Kanonchoff also has had the same conversation with the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Ms. Kanonchoff asked Council if they would share their 2021 goals with this commission once they have completed them and they said they would. She looks forward to that presentation.

Ms. McClain said based on her discussion with Council, she foresees some work coming down to this commission from Council. Council really seems to value the work and commission of this commission and hopefully we will see some projects soon.

Mr. Plouck said he does foresee some projects in the near future. He can still draft a memo and remind Council of what this commission has done and ask for some work to do. Hopefully this commission will see some projects this spring.

Mr. Snider asked Mr. Plouck if he could reference the Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2035 in the draft memo. It seems like this topic came up in the discussion with different commission members, if not all of us.

VII. Next meeting: March 9, 2021

Mr. Arunachalam asked if there has been any discussion about the commission meeting in person since everyone is starting to get vaccinations and the COVID cases are starting to decrease.

Mr. Dritz commented that he thought Council would need to start meeting in person before the commissions would start meeting in person.

Mr. Plouck said if anyone wants to reach out to have further conversation about his, they can. He does not see this commission meeting in person until Council is back to having their meetings in person. Mr. Plouck said when that takes place, he would want to talk with each member individually to make sure everyone is comfortable with meeting in person, when the time comes.

Mr. Dritz said the next meeting is March 9, 2021.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Dritz adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marja Keplar".

Marja Keplar, Administrative Support III

Attachments: Composting PowerPoint Presentation
Compost Flyer
Solid Waste Services Procurement Update Memo



DIVISION OF STREETS & UTILITIES OPERATIONS

About Dublin Compost

The City of Dublin is making it convenient for residents to compost food scraps, yard waste and other natural materials with the new Dublin Compost program. With the help of a SWACO Community Waste Reduction Grant, Dublin is offering access to a free compost disposal site, and the first 500 residents to register for the program will receive a complimentary composting bucket.

What is composting?

Composting is a natural process of recycling organic materials, such as food scraps and yard waste.

Why should you compost?

Composting has many benefits, including enriching soil, which helps retain moisture, reduces the need for fertilizers and helps plants grow. It also helps reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills. According to the EPA, food scraps and yard waste together make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away and can be composted instead. Our goal is to divert 10 tons of compostable material from the landfill during the first year of our composting program.



How do I participate in the Dublin Compost program?

Register now at dublinohiousa.gov/compost to receive information and updates regarding the pilot program. Participants may utilize any suitable container to drop off food items to 6555 Shier Rings Rd. It is highly recommended that composters use BPI Certified Compostable Bucket Liners, which can be purchased at numerous locations, including Amazon, Whole Foods and Kroger. The liners can be emptied directly into the carts.

Compostable items may be dumped any time at our 24/7 waste drop-off location in the Dublin Service Center parking lot located at 6555 Shier Rings Road. [GoZero Services](#), a composting company, will operate the program and maintain the disposal/collection carts. Compost material will be removed from the site regularly.





Office of the City Manager
5555 Perimeter Drive • Dublin, OH 43017
Phone: 614.410.4400

Memo

To: Members of Dublin City Council
From: Dana L. McDaniel, City Manager
Date: January 19, 2021
Initiated By: Megan O'Callaghan, Deputy City Manager/Chief Operating Officer
Jay Anderson, Public Service Director
Michael K. Darling, Operation Administrator
Re: Solid Waste Services Procurement Update

Background

Since 2003, the City of Dublin has partnered with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and other central Ohio communities to collaboratively bid solid waste services in an effort to obtain quality solid waste collection and recyclable material processing services at competitive prices. The composition of this group, referred to as the "Solid Waste Consortium" or "Consortium" as well as the bid process, has evolved over the years. The Consortium currently consists of ten communities that account for approximately 57,854 households. Communities included in this Consortium: Dublin, Bexley, Gahanna, Reynoldsburg, New Albany, Westerville and Blendon, Mifflin, Plain and Washington Townships. Staff would like to make Council aware of the status of the current contract as well as the plans for bidding future services.

Summary

The current Collection Services contract for the collection, transportation, and delivery for disposal of processing of residential solid waste, recyclable materials and yard waste generated within the City of Dublin, Ohio was entered into with Rumpke of Ohio, Inc. in December 2018 for a term of three years, beginning on January 1, 2019, and terminating on December 31, 2021. The current Recycling Services contract for the acceptance of delivery and processing of recyclable materials was entered into with Rumpke of Ohio, Inc. for a term of two years beginning on January 1, 2020 and terminating on December 31, 2021 with the option of two additional consecutive terms of up to one year each.

As such, the Consortium has been planning the procurement of collection and delivery of solid waste and processing of recycling services to begin on January 1, 2022. Eastman & Smith will again represent the Consortium as legal counsel funded by SWACO's Community Technical Assistance Program to assist with the contract drafting and bid process. The Consortium, Eastman & Smith and SWACO have been meeting on a monthly basis. The group has discussed pros and cons of current levels of service; the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; possible ways to increase efficiency standards in addition to the implementation of environmentally friendly services; and the individual municipality's needs.

As part of the process, the Consortium has decided to bid the collection and delivery of solid waste and processing of recyclables separately. There is no decision at this time to exercise the renewal option for the Recycling Agreement.

Memo re. Solid Waste Services Procurement Update
January 29, 2021
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Bid Timeline

Recycling Services

February 18, 2021	First Public Notice of Advertisement
February 25, 2021	Second Public Notice of Advertisement
March 4, 2021	Deadline for Receipt of Written Requests for Interpretations of Bid Documents
March 25, 2021	Bid Submission Deadline

Collection Services

April 1, 2021	First Public Notice of Advertisement
April 8, 2021	Second Public Notice of Advertisement
April 22, 2021	Informational, non-mandatory pre-bid virtual meeting for interested bidders
April 29, 2021	Deadline for Receipt of Written Requests for Interpretations of Bid Documents
May 20, 2021	Bid Submission Deadline

Recommendation

This memorandum is provided for informational purposes.