

**CITY OF SILVERTON
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
3:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

Zoom Web Conference Platform

Americans with Disabilities Act – The City of Silverton intends to comply with the A.D.A. The meeting location is accessible to individuals needing special accommodations such as a sign language interpreter, headphones, or other special accommodations for the hearing impaired. To participate, please contact the City at 503-874-2206 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

A copy of the full packet is available on the City's website at www.silverton.or.us/agendacenter. In accordance with House Bill 4212 the meeting will be held electronically using the Zoom web conference platform. Please submit written comments to cstarnar@silverton.or.us by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Comments received will be shared with the Committee before the meeting and will be included in the record.

AGENDA

- I. **OPENING CEREMONIES – Member Schuetz Call To Order & Roll Call**
- II. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**
Silverton Municipal Code 8.08.070 Meetings: “Any member of the committee is eligible to serve as either the chair or the vice chair. At its first meeting after the beginning of each new calendar year, the election of a chair and vice chair for that calendar year will be the first order of business. The chair, and in the chair’s absence, the vice chair shall preside over all meetings. All meetings of the EMC shall be held in compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law.”
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on December 15, 2020
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – Items not on this agenda
- V. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS** – None
- VI. **DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEW BUSINESS** – None
- VII. **DISCUSSION/ACTION – OLD BUSINESS** – Topics to discuss at this meeting or future meetings
 - 7.1 **Saturday Recycling Center**
 - 7.2 **EMC Goals**
 - 7.3 **Oregon’s Shared Responsibility Recycling System Legislation**
- VIII. **COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS** – An opportunity for members to share topics not on this agenda
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

CITY OF SILVERTON
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Zoom Web Conference Platform

December 15, 2020, 3:00 PM

I. OPENING CEREMONIES – Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairperson Plummer called the Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present	Absent	
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Chairperson, Matt Plummer
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Mike Ashland
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Beth Finsson
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Jamie Fuhrman
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Richard Freeman
<u> </u>	<u> X </u>	Dawn Hemstreet
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Charles Petrik
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Petra Schuetz, Ex-Officio Member, City of Silverton
<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	Travis Comfort, Ex-Officio Member, Republic Services

Staff Present: Public Works Coordinator, Chelsea Starner
Others Present: Republic Services, Jay Lawson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Fuhrman motioned to approve minutes from the Regular Meeting held on July 21, 2020. Member Ashland seconded. All members approved as presented.

III. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairperson Plummer explained that Members Thompson and Hiller had left the committee. Newly appointed Member Petrik said he is a senior at Silverton High School and in the Environmental Management Club. He said he is excited to represent the students and club. Member Ashland said he came to Oregon originally to build a hay house and now lives in one in Silverton. He said he is interested in Silverton’s sustainability efforts. Chairperson Plummer noted that this is his last month on the City Council and the EMC. He said in January another Council member should step up. He said the Vice-Chair position will also be open. He said the Committee can elect both positions in January.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

V. SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Agilyx Recycling Options - John Desmarteau

John Desmarteau from Agilyx presented information about plastic recycling options. He screen shared a PowerPoint. He noted that he lives in the community and has been impressed with sustainability in Silverton. He said the goal of his company is working on advanced plastic recycling through circular pathways. He discussed chemical recycling vs mechanical recycling. He said mechanical recycling is limited in what products they can accept. He said mechanical recycling processes are often down cycled; the item is recycled in to a different item.

He further explained the chemical recycling process. He said the process removes the contamination of the items. He said the item goes back to its original purpose. Member Ashland asked if the contaminants are broken down as additional chemicals. Mr. Desmarteau said yes and continued to explain the process. He explained proprietary conversion technology using slides as visuals. He noted in other facilities they could potentially use the product as carbon black substitute.

Member Ashland asked what type of power is used by the recycling system. Mr. Desmarteau said in future facilities they will use energy from non-condensable gas but they are not doing this yet at the Tigard facility. He said it is not a substantial amount of BTUs. He said they have up to a 70% reduction in carbon footprint vs a virgin plastic production. Member Petrik asked if the calculation included transportation to the facility. Mr. Desmarteau said it does include transportation. Member Petrik asked how they know how far things have traveled. Mr. Desmarteau said they take an average of the facilities that are feeding their facility. He said that is why there is a range of 50% to 70%.

Member Freeman asked what the primary fuel stock is. Mr. Desmarteau said they use some natural gas. He said in the reactor they use electricity. He said they use an electrically powered heating source for most processes. Member Petrik asked if they had to factor in hauling would it be profitable. Mr. Desmarteau said if Agilyx had to haul they may not be able to take loose foam due to cost.

Member Petrik asked if polystyrene would be recycled into other plastics or if they would be going to other refineries. Mr. Desmarteau said Agilyx in Tigard has a joint venture with Americas Styrenics which makes polystyrene resin, which goes in to new food grade products. He said it goes directly back in to the manufacturing of food grade polystyrene products. He said the products that are made from their products are infinitely recyclable. He said most standard recycled products like picture frames or crown moldings cannot be recycled again.

Member Comfort asked if Agilyx's system will change as DEQ legislation requires a more producer centric process. Mr. Desmarteau said they do not yet know how this will work but they are consulting with groups that run EPRs (extended producer responsibility) to see if they can take those items in. Member Comfort asked about which process areas are served under the 50%-70% carbon reduction. Mr. Desmarteau discussed the greenhouse gas emissions generated. He said the landfill options for the City of Silverton have items traveling further than they would to the Tigard facility.

Member Finnon joined the meeting 3:30 p.m.

Member Schuetz asked if Republic has densifiers in the regional area. Member Comfort said they have looked at it but are not interested in getting in to it due to expenses and permitting. He said the contamination rate is very high. Member Schuetz asked Mr. Desmarteau what type of quantity and quality are seen at collection facilities. Mr. Desmarteau said Member Comfort would be a good person to ask about this. He said there is contamination at their Tigard drop box. He said people do not always read what is acceptable, but he has seen a good public collection process. Member Schuetz asked how the quality could be increased and asked if there were examples. Mr. Desmarteau said when groups are able to educate the public there is less instance of contamination. He said manned vs unmanned sites makes a difference in what is dropped off. He said they have the same issues that any type of recycling collection has. Member Ashland asked if the answer to Member Schuetz's question is that there are not good examples. Mr. Desmarteau said they have worked with Metro and contamination levels have improved. He said the City of McMinnville has been able to bring in clean materials. Member Ashland asked if there were volunteer operations for drop-off locations. Mr. Desmarteau said that one program

with Exceed Enterprise does collection through a non-profit. He said they also work with church groups and collection event processes for clean materials. He said Sustainable Silverton also brings materials.

Mr. Desmarteau finished up by saying that they are excited to work with municipalities and that new programs are not always easy to start, but they are willing to help with signage and education as support. Chairperson Plummer said the City Council has shared their support for recycling programs and that the EMC would be talking about the Saturday recycling later in the meeting. He said this (Agilyx) program is of interest. He said he has worked with the Marion County AP group who does mechanical processing. He said when he visited an Agilyx drop site the process was very clear from signage. He said the quality goes up if the effort goes up. He said it's exciting that Sustainable Silverton is working on this process.

Mr. Desmarteau talked about other processes which send materials overseas. He said Agilyx is offering a local conversion process where products are put back into a somewhat final product all within the United States. He said this changes the economics and there is no charge to drop off materials to recycle. He said Agilyx is not usually paying for products. Member Ashland said there is a movement to stop using fossil fuels for packaging. He asked if this process supports the continued use of fossil fuels. Mr. Desmarteau said they have seen places where there are bans on certain types of plastics and they understand the life cycle analysis. He said the reduction in fossil fuels does not always make the best environmental option. He said DEQ did a study and found that paper food service items did not equate into a benefitting environmental impact. He said the best option was when there was a dedicated recycling option for a new application from the product.

Chairperson Plummer said the massive increase in cost of a barrel of oil may have people seeking Agilyx-type products. Mr. Desmarteau said the legislation that gets the manufacturers to put investments into this type of recycling, is a minimum required recycled content. He said chemical recycling allows 100% recyclable materials to be made from 100% recycled content. He said the Tigard facility will always be a polystyrene facility but they are setting up facilities all over the world with new technological processes.

Chairperson Plummer noted the Agilyx item flyer that was sent out by Ms. Starner by email and encouraged members to look at it. Mr. Desmarteau said when they work with municipalities they like to start with packing foam then later add more options. He discussed food packaging items and the recoveree responsibilities in the recovery process. Chairperson Plummer asked for final questions and then thanked Mr. Desmarteau for coming.

VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION - NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Modernizing Oregon's Recycling System Through Shared Responsibility - Petra Schuetz

This item was not discussed.

6.2 Saturday Recycling Center

Member Schuetz said the taxpayers have been paying more for Saturday recycling than anyone previously knew. She said Republic Services will be collecting data to see where the recycling products are coming from, the level of service, and whether the City is supplementing county residents. She asked Member Comfort how the data would be collected. He said they are putting together a plan and will be reporting back to the Council. Member Schuetz said the purpose of the agenda item was just to introduce the concept.

Chairperson Plummer said he would like to know who the primary users are. He said people in town have recycling options so it may be out of town users. He said he personally feels it is people who produce larger amounts of recycling or people who do not have options. He said he recognizes that part of what he is paying may subsidize other users outside the city. He said he is not concerned with who is using the center but would like to know the volume of materials being collected.

Mr. Comfort said it would double the expense to add polystyrene. He said they have only been focused on the number of people coming to the center and have not thought to track where people are coming from but they are working on how to do that. He said they are waiting on further direction from Council as

to whether City staff will be taking on the data collection or if Republic will move forward in that role. He said they are thinking about starting in March when weather is better. Member Finnson asked about the tonnage data being broken out by types of materials. Member Comfort said Republic does this and that the bi-annual report was in the last Council packet. He noted the effects of COVID-19 on volume. He said the report also noted where the materials went.

Member Ashland asked if the data included what was being brought in but not accepted. Member Comfort said they do not have that data because the center is unmanned. Member Ashland asked about contamination rates. Member Comfort said baby diapers are the biggest contaminants. He said polystyrene is not the biggest contaminant. He said they would talk more about this as the Opportunity to Recycle legislation comes out. Member Schuetz asked when Republic would be able to talk about the proposed changes. He said in January he will be getting input from Council, City staff and others. He said they would also compile information in a weekly or monthly newsletter.

He noted the DEQ legislative concept 578 and encouraged the EMC to look at it. Member Freeman asked if there was to be a survey for Saturday recycling center would the City be prepared to approach the county for cost sharing. Member Comfort said it would be up to the City to pursue that. He said he is not aware of anyone in the county who does not have access to the three services aside from very rural locations.

Member Comfort asked if people on the EMC are open to Republic asking for addresses. He said they are compiling a survey for people who come to the Saturday recycling center. Member Freeman said he would hope Republic could let people know it is ok to answer the question honestly. Member Finnson asked if they don't answer does that mean they could not use that facility. Member Comfort said that is up to the Council. Chairperson Plummer said he doesn't believe the Council would mandate that. Member Ashland said he thought they should talk more about what questions would be asked. He said a QR code would be a good idea. Member Comfort said if anyone wants to bring ideas for questions to the January meeting he would appreciate it. Chairperson Plummer said he would like to see question ideas finalized by February. Member Petrik said he thinks the data is very important to see if it causes a financial impact. He said it would be good to see if the extra financial impact would be worth it to pay as related to the potential environmental impact.

Member Freeman said any survey should take into account the audience. He said the people are already going the extra mile to drop things off at the recycling center. Member Comfort said they think data collection may need to be done for at least a quarter if not longer. Member Schuetz said the Agilyx pilot project with Republic Services in Wilsonville may produce data in the second quarter of next year. Member Comfort discussed the educational materials they have created with Agilyx and said in Wilsonville the contamination rate has gone down considerably. He said the 14 mile radius route is at about \$10,000 in costs. He said the Silverton route is 78 miles so the carbon footprint and cost is part of the equation.

Chairperson Plummer said the stress of Saturday recycling on the shops yard is showing. He asked for ideas on potential locations to host the recycling in the future. Member Schuetz said the City repaved the lot at the shops and over time the equipment will deteriorate this. She mentioned that for emergency management purposes they would like to have the facility locked off to the public. She said staff looked at all of the public sites. She said the Pine and Brown Street site has been suggested to the City Manager but she was not in favor of the idea for a variety of reasons. She another option was the Eugene Field site which had plenty of room and was visible but the current City Manager said it would be unsightly in the middle of town. She noted the City Manager is in her last week of service and that the next City Manager may be in support of those locations. She said she would like the EMC to be able to weigh in on the two previously mentioned locations.

Chairperson Plummer said he has not been to the shops location on Saturdays but would like to know what equipment is used there. Member Schuetz Republic's equipment is located in the central lot area. She said that the other City equipment is vulnerable and there has been theft and vandalism. She said much of the City's large equipment is located at the shops including the decant facility, and they are not in

a secured environment. Mr. Lawson of Republic Services said six drop boxes are delivered on Friday and picked up on Monday. He said there are steel wheels on one end. He said the drop boxes were not damaging the old asphalt but he has heard there is a concern with the newly installed asphalt product. He said they are trying to minimize damage. Chairperson Plummer asked what size the boxes are. Mr. Lawson said most are 30 yards. Mr. Ashland asked what other equipment besides the boxes might need to be relocated. Member Schuetz said there is no other equipment. She noted if Styrofoam would be collected there would have to be a covered space, even if it is not associated with Republic. She said it would have to be stored in a dry location. She said they have space at the shops to collect Styrofoam but no covered space. She said they could put a roof on the decant facility. Member Comfort said he would recommend a site where City staff has someone to watch it coming in so it does not fly away.

Member Ashland said they should look at the next best steps for Silverton to plan ahead. He said they should make sure there is a covered area if they think they will move forward with Styrofoam in Silverton. Member Comfort said it will also be about where materials have to be taken per the legislation. Chairperson Plummer noted these discussions will be important for the EMC to discuss next month and beyond and he feels that the Committee has the knowledge to look forward. He said he feels like people are just learning what options are out there. He said bringing people in to see if the options are right for Silverton is a good way to go.

VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION - OLD BUSINESS

7.1 EMC Goals

Chairperson Plummer said that he recommends holding off since the Committee will have a new Chair, and has two new members. He said he would like individuals to think about what they would like to tackle as a Committee.

Member Ashland said Sustainable Silverton is looking into a program for financing solar for seniors. He asked if they can send the EMC information by email to discuss. Chairperson Plummer said they can pass items to Chelsea. Chairperson Plummer said at the end of the meeting members have an opportunity to discuss new topics. Ms. Starner noted that members should be cautious in discussing topics in email and the best way is to send items to City staff first.

VIII. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

Member Ashland shared his screen to show the Committee Beyond Bins information. He said it has been used to help educate about items that do not go in the bins. Member Comfort asked that members think about the Saturday recycling questions. Mr. Lawson said not only can batteries go in bins but also motor oil and cooking oil. Chairperson Plummer said the point of what we have access to now is a good one. Member Comfort talked about the link for Marion County related to what materials go where.

Chairperson Plummer adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Chelsea Starner, Public Works Coordinator