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Holyoke Waste Management Study Group Meeting #1 Notes July 25 2022

Present: Carl Eger, Stephen Fay, Amie Chrzanowski, Mike Sullivan, Michael Moriarty, Joe Kietner, Sean Gonsalves, Linda Pratt, Mary MaGrath, Mike Sullivan

Not Present: Jordan Hartt-Chamber, City Councilors Rivera and Bartley, Jamie Cotto

Staff: Catherine Ratté (cratte@pvpc.org 413/285-1174) and Eric Weiss (eweiss@pvpc.org 413/781-6045)

Meeting started with introductions and hopes from members in serving on the group

Staff to group: Catherine Ratté-Director of the Land Use & Environment department at PVPC-24 years' experience at PVPC and worked on 2010 Organic Waste study, 2012 Pathway to Zero Waste Report and 2014 Chicopee landfill closure report with Mayor Garcia when he was at PVPC. Eric Weiss-Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration formerly served on MRF Advisory Board and staffed Hilltown Resource Management Collaborative

Member Introductions: (list of members with emails is at end of document)

Carl-subbing for Helen Florio of Holyoke Taxpayer's Association-long history of work in both government and business sectors; here to contribute

Stephen-Mayor's aide-eyes and ears of Mayor on group and motivated by litter and trash problems in the city

Amie-acting Superintendent of Public Works-here professionally and eager to learn ideas for better managing waste in the city

Mike S-former city councilor and proponent of ESG clean energy

Mike M-wears many hats-school board, state Board of Education and License board and ED One Holyoke CDC 30 yrs experience with garbage in the city-CDC owns multi-family buildings and therefore has access to residents, eager to address 'midnight dumpers' out of towners who come to Holyoke and dump their garbage, also addressing graffiti and suggests group consider including graffiti

Sean-Dir Board of Health (BOH) has enforcement responsibilities and eager to reduce illegal dumping and get waste out of waterways, learn from other munis, standard size waste and recycling containers

Mary-member of Board of Public Works (BPW) and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), experience with waste management across many munis, sees this work as a 30,000 foot view of trash management developing a roadmap to improvements in quality of life, consider waste water treatment contract renewal happening simultaneously and eager to integrate solid waste as a green fuel

Megan-chair of Community Preservation Act (CPA) committee and member Keep It Clean group-hands on targeted clean-up, focus on equity and assets not just problems, trash is a visible sign of not caring, how to produce less waste-explore single use plastics and plastic bag ban

Joe-member Green Holyoke Mayor's Adv Committee, 25 yrs exp in DPWs outside city and eager to advance solutions

Linda-moved to Holyoke from rural Ohio in 2016-loves the city and challenged by visible trash especially compared to previous work traveling in Honduras-decay in waste infrastructure-containers in parks not maintained and need for recycling in condo and multi-family buildings

Catherine and Eric affirmed that all the goals of members will be addressed, and the final product will be a Road Map to improved waste management in the city

Themes identified:

- Litter and visible garbage-overflowing dumpsters

- Multi-family and Condos needing recycling
- Overall need for improvement in solid waste management integrated into city’s strategic planning and economic development

Mike S shared information on the ESG Clean energy project and invited Eric to tour-Carl would also like to join the tour.

Eric presented the data below from the MA DEP Solid Waste and Recycling summary information

Funding Source	City Taxes
Population	39,880
# Households	16,200
# Households Served	9950
Trash Summary	Includes Schools
Frequency	Weekly
Recycling summary	Comprehensive
Frequency	Bi weekly or Drop Off
Annual SW Tonnage	7331
Tip Fee Paid	\$81.60
SW Annual Disp Cost	\$598,209.60
Annual Operations Costs	NA
Comingled Recycling	88.5
Single Stream Recycling	880.35
Mixed Paper	272.85
Yard Waste	1620
Mattresses	31
Elec Waste	60
Total Diverted/Recycled	2952.7
Estimated Recycling Rate	28.5%
Schools Trash and Recycling	Separate Program

Followed by a brief discussion:

Clarification that DPW does pick up recycling for schools and that schools do separate recycling
 Need for recycling and plastics reduction at the school; COVID protocols necessitated a lot of plastic
 Need to connect with Sodexo, food provider to schools on waste reduction efforts as well as Whitney
 Anderson-Dir of Facilities for Holyoke schools

Address concern that all recycling is going into the garbage due to reduction in recycling from US
 accepted by China—not accurate—some trucks pick up both recycling and garbage so bystanders think
 they are seeing recycling go into garbage truck but it isn’t and the MRF in Springfield does still recycle—
 they do receive a lot of “wish-cycling” material—plastic that is not recyclable but consumers think it is,
 and they have to dispose of that. Prior to change in recycling purchase by China Holyoke was paid
 \$20/ton for recyclable plastic-now is paying \$40/ton for disposal.

Need for public information and education campaign on appropriate recycling to stop wish-cycling and
 to consider creative solutions to waste reduction such as city sponsored Styrofoam collection days.

Also suggested to investigate street sweeping as part of waste management-now it is done by waste water treatment company Veolia and not very well.

ACTION: Eric will meet with MRF to get up to date understanding of their work

ACTION: Eric will meet with Whitney Anderson and with SODEXO for deeper understanding of issues with recycling at schools and possibly organics collection/composting

Brainstorming additional stakeholders to interview:

- Neighbor to Neighbor
- Seniors
- Hispanic community
- Ward 1 City Councilor
- Nayroby at One Holyoke
- PVTA rep Paul Burns as bus stops are problem litter areas and have no waste/recycling containers
- Waste haulers serving the city: Casella, Republic, Allied, USA, Waste Management
- Veolia
- CT River Conservancy-source to sea clean-up

ACTION: Eric will reach out and schedule interviews

Other issues:

Lack of enforcement and lack of prosecution even when you have a video of illegal dumping, Judge let perpetrator off

Public Forums 1-3?

Suggestion to go to existing groups over time to assure broad community awareness and involvement in describing the issues and identifying solutions, but experience shows a general public meeting may not advance thinking beyond complaints already expressed so PVPC should go to existing groups and explain goal of study and seek input on both issues and solutions.

ACTION: PVPC will propose a series of existing meetings to attend and get committee ok at next meeting

Regular meeting time: 2nd Monday 7-8:30 pm; most meetings will be on zoom but will meet in person for September meeting (9/12) Stephen to finalize room

Other discussion:

Suggestion for committee or sub-set of members to take road trip(s) to other municipalities that have exemplary waste management systems/processes in place

ACTION: Eric will research possible road trip sites and present at September meeting---members are encouraged to make suggestions

DECISION: If we make any educational or promotional materials they need to be in Spanish and English City is using ARPA funds to replace trash barrels for residents and also has funding for public information and education so keep that in mind as we move forward

Consider Pay as your Throw (PAYT)

Next Meeting Monday August 7-8:30 on Zoom

Thank you all for your time and energy—list of members on next page with affiliations and email

Holyoke Waste Management Study Ad Hoc Oversight Group Members

1. Joe Kietner - member of Green Holyoke mayoral advisory group jkietner@gmail.com
2. Meghan Magrath - member of Green Holyoke mayoral advisory and chair of the CPA megmagrath@gmail.com
3. Israel Rivera - City Councilor at-large israelrivera4holyoke@gmail.com
4. Dave Bartley - Ward 3 City Councilor bartleyforward3@gmail.com
5. Linda Pratt - member of Public Health/Public Safety mayoral advisory group pratt394@gmail.com
6. Jordan Hart - Executive Director of Holyoke Chamber jordan@holyokechamber.com
7. Jaime Cotto - member of Public Health/Public Safety Mayoral Advisory Group jimmycotto16@comcast.net
8. Amie Chrzanowski - Acting DPW Superintendent chrzanowskia@holyoke.org
9. Michael Moriarty (or designee) - Executive Director of OneHolyoke, CDC Michael.moriarty@oneholyoke.org
10. Stephen Fay - Mayor's Aide fays@holyoke.org
11. Mary Monohan - DPW Commissioner marylmonahan@gmail.com
12. Sean Gonsalves - Board of Health Director gonsalvess@holyoke.org
13. Carl Eger - Holyoke Taxpayer Association c.seger29@yahoo.com
14. Mike Sullivan mike.sully53@yahoo.com

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