

October 11, 2012
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The Plastic Bag Community Plan Task Force met on the above date and time in the Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall.

In attendance were Task Force Members: Laura Kriz, Herb Goblirsch, Vince Pappalardo, Rhonda Fry, Dennis Fry, Gretchen Ammerman, Matt Hawkyard, Jay Fineman (via telephone), Ken Riley, Mark Jones, Peggy Sabanskas, Mark Saelens, Katherine Howard, Steve Farish, and LeOra Johnson (arrived at 6:18 P.M.). Also present was Council liaison David Allen. Also in attendance were Councilor Lon Brusselback and Mayor Mark McConnell. Media present was Rick Beasley of the Newport News-Times. Staff present was Peggy Hawker, City Recorder/Special Projects Director.

CALL TO ORDER

Hawkyard called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

CLARIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Dennis Fry stated that Section 3 of the resolution establishing the Task Force states that the responsibility of the Task Force is to determine options to reduce or eliminate the use of single use plastic bags. He suggested that if some Task Force members do not agree with the task, that they should step aside. He noted that he believes that some Task Force members have the motive to kill the idea or assigned task.

Sabanskas stated that a plastic bag ban will have a dramatic impact on businesses, and believed that Council wanted input which is why she agreed to be a member of the Task Force. Saelens suggested moving on so that he could explain the decision matrix that he had prepared. Hawkyard asked the Task Force for approval to discuss the decision matrix before voting on the motion that had been put on the table at the last meeting. Rhonda Fry stated that it should have been made clear at the first Task Force meeting who the voting members were. She added that Dennis Fry had completed an application to become a Task Force member, while she was asked to become a member. Allen stated that he had listened to the September 27 Task Force meeting audio file and the March 19, City Council Work Session audio file. He thanked Kriz for developing the conceptual framework. Saelens noted that Kriz' documents are a step in the right direction, but asked how you utilize the conceptual framework in developing a consensus. McConnell reported that the Task Force membership had been left open. He added that he hoped by using the conceptual framework (developed by Kriz) and the decision matrix (developed by Saelens), everyone would be able to weigh in on the two charts and send a recommendation to Council that would indicate the number in favor of each option. He added that he would like to know how each person sitting around the table feels about the options. Allen suggested that some members may support an

option; oppose an option; or could live with an option, and that consensus could be gained this way.

The discussion returned to the issue of voting members. Allen reviewed what Council had discussed on March 19; and talked about stakeholders. Allen noted that there would be one solid waste hauler speaking on behalf of all the haulers. He added that on March 19, the Council received a series of public-at-large applications, including that of Dennis Fry. He added that at the end, Council was still missing stakeholders from smaller and larger retailers, and that Dennis and Rhonda Fry were asked whether they would be willing to be the small retailer stakeholder. He noted that the Fry's agreed to this joint position, but that at no time had anyone ever been denied an opportunity to sit at the table and discuss the issues. Dennis Fry stated that he was appointed to fill the position on March 19 and that throughout the Task Force meetings had identified himself as representing the public-at-large. He stated that he did recall Rhonda Fry being asked at the March 19 meeting whether she would be willing to represent the small retailers. He added that the reason Rhonda had not initially applied for a Task Force position was the uncertainty about being able to attend the meetings. He stated that he did not align himself with Oceana throughout discussions. MOTION was made by Goblirsch, seconded by Farish, that both Dennis and Rhonda Fry be given a vote on the Task Force. Saelens stated that the only thing that counts is what goes to the public. Jones stated that he agreed with Saelens regarding the range of options discussed in September. He added that if there is a vote, he knows what will happen, and that he will issue a minority report. Pappalardo suggested a vote on the different proposals. Farish stated that everyone had agreed to have a vote on the motion on the table (the Corvallis model). Saelens stated that the Corvallis model is included as an option in the decision matrix that he prepared. McConnell noted that there is time for public comment at all Council meetings, and if an ordinance is brought forward, there will be public hearings and everyone will be allowed an opportunity to speak to the issue. Rhonda Fry stated that she would like to hear what kind of education/public outreach would create less plastic. Jones stated that he would prefer to set the voting clarification issue aside; amend the agenda; and hold a discussion on the options. He added that the Task Force can accept all four recommendations. Hawkyard amended the agenda to consider the decision matrix before the clarification of voting members issue. Allen stated that it would help him if the Task Force looked at the options; discussed the pros and cons of each; and made individual decisions as to whether each member: strongly supports; strongly opposes; or can live with each option.

DECISION MATRIX DISCUSSION

Saelens reviewed the decision matrix noting that there are four options: Corvallis model with a ban and a fee; Newport model with a ban and a fee; Newport transition with education and a possible transition to a fee if education is ineffective; and no ban with education only. It was suggested that the no ban/education option be tied to a target for reduction, and that key people be identified to monitor how the reduction is occurring. Howard asked that the reduction targets be explained. Saelens noted that it is unreasonable to expect even a 50% reduction with the education only option, but that the percentage can be decided later. Saelens urged the Task Force to decide on

option(s) they can support to forward to Council. Jones reported that the city went from zero to 28% recycling with education only when curbside recycling was initiated. Pappalardo recommended keeping the Corvallis model as an option for consideration by Council. Jones suggested changing the word “fee” to “tax” as the money would be going to a government and therefore a tax. Goblirsch referenced a KGW Television poll regarding the status of the Portland bag ban after a year. Brusselback suggested that the Task Force could weigh in on each option, rather than just one option. Rhonda Fry asked what methods of education would convince someone not to use plastic bags. Sabanskas noted that most of her customers are tourists, and her product is heavy, so she must use a cardboard box or a heavy plastic bag, and that she could not place her product in a paper bag during the rains. Fineman suggested calling the vote and voting on each option. It was noted that Council can vet the options later. The Task Force voted on each option with the following results:

	Corvallis Model Ban + Fee	Newport Model No Ban + Fee	Transition Assess in One Year	Voluntary
Not Support	4	6	5	6
Could Support	0	1	4	0
Support	6	3	0	4
Abstentions*	2	2	3	2

*Abstentions were: Lincoln County Hauler Representative, Mark Saelens, and for Option 3 (Transition) Herb Goblirsch.

CLARIFICATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The Task Force returned to the issue of clarification of voting members. The following motion was on the table: MOTION was made by Goblirsch, seconded by Farish, that both Dennis and Rhonda Fry be given a vote on the Task Force. The motion failed in a six to six tie.

DEVELOP NEXT AGENDA AND SET MEETING DATE IF REQUIRED

Hawkyard asked whether another meeting is necessary. Goblirsch asked why the Task Force wasted so much time when the City Council should have dealt with this issue to begin with. MOTION was made by Goblirsch, seconded by Johnson that due to the complexity, as well as the absence of any empirical scientific evidence of creating more harm than good for the citizens of Newport, to permanently table the plastic bag ban issue before this Task Force, and recommend the Newport City Council not interfere in the free choice of its citizens to make their own environmental and conservation judgments. Of Note: Current science cites that banning the bags actually may be a net negative for the environment, yielding little environmental benefit while increasing

carbon emissions and other impacts. Misleading and exaggerated claims of damage actually undermine the credibility of science. The motion failed in a voice vote with three in favor of the motion, seven opposed to the motion, and one abstention.

MOTION was made by Sabanskas, seconded by Pappalardo, to send the four options and the associated vote to the City Council as is. The motion carried in a voice vote.

It was noted that this item will go forward to the City Council at its next regular meeting, and since a quorum of Task Force members could be present, it will be noticed as a joint meeting between the City Council and the Plastic Bag Community Plan Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M.