

## MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:37 with Steven Sherman presiding as Chair.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Steven Sherman, Barun Singh, Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Kitt Saginor

LOA: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson

Absent: Sandra Curtis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Johnny de Lara, Keith Morin, Leticia Jauregui

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 5**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 3**

- Bay Nature Magazine ad from Marylou
- EC Summer Solstice Event at Berk farmers' market on 6/23, 6/25, 6/27
- Swasti grad!!!!

### ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the May 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman / Dargahi) to approve the May 20, 2026 meeting agenda.  
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis
- **Approval of the April 15, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Action Taken: M/S/C (Dargahi / Uyat) to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes.  
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis
  - Add Lucy Longwell
- **Staff Updates**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
- **Mary Lou – A Short History of Recycling in Berkeley, California**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
  - Waste is a verb, not a noun.
  - A lot of demand in the Bay Area for organizations like Urban Ore
  - Interested in selling Urban Ore
  - The Urban Ore model scales up and down
  - Greatest challenge today?
  - Archive? How can people access the archive?

- i. Recycling archive lives in Berkeley's Mezzanine, oral history interviews of founders of the recycling industry
- ii. 22 questions written by Dan

**Public Comment: 0**

- **Vote to adopt the revised Transfer Station Rebuild 1-pager**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Saginer) to adopt the revised Transfer Station Rebuild 1-pager  
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis

- Is there a point that emphasizes the urgency of the situation? Any data/numbers we can write down that show the urgency?
- This can be an evolving document, this is essentially a list of talking points that commissioners can use to push the rebuild (either through quoting them in an article, a meeting with a council member, etc.)

**Public Comment: 3**

- Does it endorse a specific design? No. That's not the intention of the document.
- Has there been a shortening of the CEQA process? No.
- It looks good, the intention is meant to provide good talking points for everyone.
  - i. Especially because there are folks who read the packets/minutes online, so they can be informed as well even if they don't attend commission meetings

- **Subcommittee Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

**Public Comment: 0**

- **Special Events**

- i. Ordinance got turned a bit sideways
- ii. Council member Tregub is doing a larger initiative on permitting, so trying to include special events ordinance material in this larger initiative
- iii. Still confused about how to get a document to City Council

- **Lease Language Subcommittee**

- i. Need to figure out how to talk to the City Council
  - 1. Because rent board must go through City Council
- ii. No particular traction
- iii. Looking for examples of successful lease language programs to reach new tenants

- **City Staff – Zero Waste Fund Forecast and Budget Presentation**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Talk of separating Transfer Station Rebuild point from the greater plan to get it to council sooner

**Public Comment: 1**

- What is the transfer station bond? **IF** the rebuild was authorized, there would be a bond to pay for it (no existing transfer station bond yet)

- **ZWC Workplan Progress Check**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Commission can make more public appearances over the next couple months (at farmers' markets or other places)
- WWF grant from \$75,000-300,000 to decrease food waste

**Public Comment: 0**

- **Discuss which initiatives from the Zero Waste Strategic Plan Executive Summary commissioners will work on**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Dennis: mobile food vending, education, zero packaging, and refill stores
- Layla: SUDs and foodware, litter reduction, food recovery
- Barun: Help wherever, has little time
- Philip: Events ordinance

**Public Comment: 0**

- **Commissioner Announcements**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Open government commission; Open government ordinance to make meetings more accessible remotely (make all meetings available in hybrid form)
- Dennis: Zero Waste Forum.

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

- Discuss SB343 going into effect in October: extended producer responsibility for recyclables
- Continue discussing which initiatives from the Zero Waste Strategic Plan Executive Summary commissioners will work on
- [running agenda item] ZWC Workplan Progress Check

**Public Comment:**

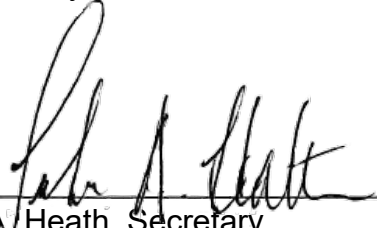
- **Adjournment at 7:31 p.m.**

M/S/C (Sherman / Singh) to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Lucy Longwell, Philip Monrad, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in person at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Respectfully Submitted



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Julia A. Heath, Secretary