



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

December 10, 2018, 1:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

75 S. Frontage Road - Vail, Colorado, 81657

1. Call to Order

1.1. Attendance

Present: Ludwig Kurz, Pam Hopkins, John Ryan Lockman, Brian Stockmar, Karen Perez, Rollie Kjesbo, Brian Gillette

Absent: None

2. Informational Update

- 2.1. A brief update and discussion on the community recycling rate and progress towards waste diversion goals in the 2009 Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan. 30 Min.

Applicant:

Planner: Mark Hoblitzell

Mark Hoblitzell provided an update and compared Vail's recycling rates with other communities. He discussed legislation in Vail requiring recycling, and trash rates to encourage higher levels of recycling. Plastic bag ban was adopted in 2016. About 4 million plastic bags per year were being distributed by local (2) grocery stores at the time. They now use about 300,000 paper bags each year- fee returns from the program fund the hard to recycle collection events.

Hoblitzell discussed the public outreach and media campaign. He discussed the message to the community on the inability to recycle wrapping and tissue paper. He discussed special collection events held each year on recycling. He mentioned requirements for requiring recycle bins near trash canisters, and discussed the business recycling challenge. He mentioned the Eagle County Waste Wizard, where people can find out how to best recycle various materials. Website will provide location where recycling of various materials can be dropped off.

Recycling rates were reviewed, including residential, business and Town of Vail municipal waste. In 2018, the recycling rate is 23%.

Stockmar – How are you accounting for people who drop off at recycling centers, vs at home?

Hoblitzell – Recycling rates account for tonnages at the hauler and landfill side so all material is included where participation rates look at who is putting out a recycling can or has recycling infrastructure.

Stockmar – Who is not recycling?

Hoblitzell – Bigger challenge is to get people to recycle properly. Most people have some type of recycling can or access to recycling. Seasonal

residents have a struggle to manage costs associated with waste hauling.

Hoblitzell reviewed recycling participation rates. About 72% of properties have recycling bins out on trash day. About 28% only place trash bins at curb. Multi family participation rate is 94% and commercial about 95% participation rates. Food waste is a large portion of the weight. Vail Honeywagon now has a commercial compost facility.

Stockmar – Is it true that only plastics #1 and #2 are recycled?

Hoblitzell - We can still recycle #1- #7 at through all channels locally. Commodity markets for #3 - #7 are challenging and often times recyclers are paying for that material to be recycled. We have a good recycler in the Front Range that most of our material goes to, but many communities do not have a market for their recycling materials.

Hoblitzell reviewed community events- We are up to 19 tons for paper shredding, hazardous material and electronic household waste at our community recycling events from 16 tons in 2017 and 12 tons in 2016.

County-wide we have opportunities to recycle up to 80% of waste. County recycling rates were presented, which were 22.2% in 2017. Construction and demolition material brings this number down when looking at total diversion rates.

Hoblitzell reviewed statewide conditions. Colorado is at 12% waste diversion statewide, vs 35% at the national level. There is a strong need for statewide data collection. Mountain resort communities are leading the state in recycling rates. Pitkin and Summit Counties have higher recycling rates than Vail or Eagle County. He discussed recycling goals from the Sustainability Plan. Opportunities exist in Composting opportunities, and construction waste.

Stockmar – How can this commission help?

Kurz – Surprised at the Colorado recycling rates. Surprised we are far behind national rates. Why is this?

Hoblitzell – We have some bright spots in Boulder, Fort Collins, Aspen, Summit County and Eagle County. Many communities do not have the infrastructure for recycling. Creating more markets to use the recycled material would be helpful. We have a closed loop glass market, with reuse in the brewing industry. Gaps are in infrastructure.

Gillette – May be based on the population density of the states.

Hoblitzell – Yes, to some degree. However, costs to landfill material are still low in Colorado due to general landfill space availability.

Hopkins – Are visitors an issue?

Hoblitzell– They can be. Education can be a challenge to visitors based on different materials may be recyclable in their home community, but generally guests are knowledgeable about recycling. Staff worked together on the launch of the short term rental program to ensure that guest properties received proper recycling information and educational materials to help address this gap

Lockman – Ordinance on recycling – I have seen trash and recycling costs go up significantly in the past year. How do we help the community to afford trash and recycling costs? We should consider municipal hauling contracts.

Stockmar – We should make a motion asking the Town Council to reconsider municipal hauling.

Gillette – Which communities have higher recycling?

Hoblitzell discussed some communities that require trash and recycling be brought to the Eagle County landfill. Challenges with leveraging the variable rate structure: specifically local property owners instead of haulers own the cans, and the costs associated with wildlife proof cans vs traditional cans and varying levels of compliance on wildlife resistant cans for recyclable materials .

Lockman – Do haulers need to offer information on variable rates and size cans?

Hoblitzell – Haulers are required to submit pricing to the Town annually. Most people are not fully leveraging the variable size based rates. Now it takes about 2 years to recover the cost of switching to a new, smaller can. Finding an average rate has been a challenge, as often times rates vary from customer to customer depending on how long they have had service.

Lockman – In 2014 we passed a recycling ordinance. We should encourage Town to find solutions to promote volume based pricing. If people knew the costs, they would participate. Anything the Town of Vail can do in order to promote volume based pricing would be helpful. Lack of education is holding people back.

Hoblitzell – Staff has applied for a state grant to launch a bin exchange program to help residents leverage the rate structures. The price for service is based on size of the trash bin, not size of recycling bin. A smaller trash can lead to lower costs.

Hopkins – A neighbor of mine was not aware that pine beetle was a big problem, after living there for 40 years. Similarly, people may not know about recycling. Provide a list to include in the annual invoice for service, to educate property owners.

Hoblitzell – Haulers are required to provide new stickers on the bins on which materials are recyclable. Waster Wizard is new in the past month and is a great tool.

Gillette - Problem is that people recycle things they should not. They try to recycle too much stuff that should be trash.

Lockman – Please discuss new developments, and requirements for space for recycling.

Hoblitzell – Title 14, Vail Town Code, has one sentence on requiring adequate trash storage. But “adequate” is not defined. The code does not mention space requirements for recycling.

Lockman – What does staff recommend to address this issue?

Hoblitzell – Staff is discussing options to modify this code language. Some communities have design guidelines for trash and recycling, including size, volume, access, ceiling height for truck clearance, etc.

Gillette – We have good participation rates, but low diversion rates. That's where we should focus our efforts.

Hoblitzell – We are not looking inside the bins, due to safety and privacy concerns. We have small collection facilities in certain areas of town, and bins fill up quickly. Participation rates only reflect if there is a recycling bin and trash bin not the size or utilization. Much of our education outreach is based on a complaints or specific requests for help and assistance.

Perez – Will you return to the PEC with more information and answers to some of our questions?

Hoblitzell – We will return with more information. We would like the board to identify the priorities for more information from staff.

Gillette – Should we have an exchange program for trash and recycling cans; what should I do if I no longer need my large tote?

Hoblitzell – Staff has applied for a state grant to fund a bin exchange program and is waiting information on the award. There is a need for cans in the community is reasonably easy to re-sell or give away through classified or social media channels

Lockman – Haulers do not have incentives to offer smaller cans, with less revenue. Town Council should look into municipal hauling contract to improve service, remove heavy vehicles from roadways, and manage costs.

Kjesbo – Would single stream promote more recycling?

Hoblitzell – Honeywagon and Waste Management both have single stream recycling which heads to Denver. County drop sites are sent to Eagle County which is dual-stream. In a strong market, haulers have incentive to drive to Denver to sell the commodity as recycling centers pay, but the county recycling center does not charge tipping fees or pay for material. In a weak market, haulers have more incentive to take material to Eagle County facility as they do not need to pay

Hoblitzell closed the discussion: Staff will return to the Commission to discuss the following topics per request from the PEC- Education efforts and opportunities, design standards for waste storage areas, current utilization of volume based pricing and participation vs. recycling rates, and provide more information on municipal hauling.

3. Main Agenda

- 3.1. A request for a recommendation to the Vail Town Council for a Prescribed Regulations Amendment, pursuant to Section 12-3-7, Amendment, Vail Town Code, to amend Section 14-10-5, Building Materials and Design, Vail Town Code, and Section 14-10-8, Landscaping, Drainage and Erosion Control, Vail Town Code, relating to wildfire protection and the proposed adoption of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code, and setting forth details in 5 min.

regard thereto. (PEC18-0035)

The applicant has requested this item be tabled to the January 14, 2019 regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning and Environmental Commission.

Applicant: Vail Fire & Emergency Services

Planner: Chris Neubecker

Brian Gillette moved to table to January 14, 2019. Ludwig Kurz seconded the motion and it passed (7-0).

- 3.2. A request for a recommendation to the Vail Town Council for a Prescribed Regulations Amendment pursuant to Section 12-3-7, Amendment, Vail Town Code, to amend Section 12-23-3, Employee Generation and Mitigation Rates, Vail Town Code, for consistency with changes adopted by Town Council in Ordinance 12, Series of 2017. (PEC18-0040) 10 min.

Applicant: Town of Vail

Planner: Ashley Clark

Clark - This is an Administrative matter. Staff found an inconsistency between the rate adopted in 2017 with the existing example in the code.

Stockmar – I see no questions

Public Comment – None

Brian Gillette moved to recommendation of approval. Ludwig Kurz seconded the motion and it passed (7-0).

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. November 26, 2018 PEC Results

Ludwig Kurz moved to approve. Karen Perez seconded the motion and it passed (5-0).

Abstain: (2) Gillette, Kjesbo

5. Adjournment

Karen Perez moved to adjourn. Ludwig Kurz seconded the motion and it passed (7-0).

The applications and information about the proposals are available for public inspection during regular office hours at the Town of Vail Community Development Department, 75 South Frontage Road. The public is invited to attend the project orientation and the site visits that precede the public hearing in the Town of Vail Community Development Department. Times and order of items are approximate, subject to change, and cannot be relied upon to determine at what time the Planning and Environmental Commission will consider an item. Please call (970) 479-2138 for additional information. Please call 711 for sign language interpretation 48 hour prior to meeting time.

Community Development Department