



Waste Diversion Committee

July 9, 2019

Council Chambers

9:30 AM

Members Regional Councillor Jack Heath, Chair Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Reid McAlpine Karl Lyew, MEAC Representative Guests Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Valerie Burke Regrets Councillor Khalid Usman	Staff Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Juliana Aparicio, Diversion Programs Technician Angela Perry, Waste Operations Assistant Michael DiPasquale, Supervisor, Waste Operations Sara Tam, Manager, Business Planning & Innovation Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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1. Call to Order

The Waste Diversion Sub-Committee convened at 9:35 AM with Regional Councillor Jack Heath in the Chair.

2. Review of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine

That the Minutes from the June 19, 2019 Waste Diversion Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Guest Presentation: Craig Marwood, President - EcoVerts Ltd.

Craig Marwood, President, Ecoverts provided a presentation on new mobile recycling units. The focus of the presentation was on the new Generation 3 model. Some of the benefits of this model include:

- Overhead banner is 9 feet instead of 8 feet
 - Increases visibility of the banner can be used to obtain sponsors for funding event waste management;
 - Banners can be customized cost effectively
- Increased waste capacity
 - Holds 95 gallons per stream, and 285 gallons total;

- Requires less frequent servicing
- Ability to customize streams that can be collected, i.e. two stream or three-stream

A copy of the presentation was circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

The Committee discussed the following:

- Colour coding waste receptacles by the type of waste or recycling that is being put in to it and consistently doing this across the City;
- Need a City wide strategy for the management of waste at events, festivals, and in public spaces;
- Concern as to what happens to the recycling collected at events, festivals, and public spaces;
- The importance of having a garbage slot on the waste receptacle used at events and festivals to help minimize contamination;
- How much contamination is there in Markham's public recycling bins;
- Need to determine how many bins are needed as per size of event, i.e. how far will people walk;
- How the City can ensure event and festival vendors are using recyclable food and beverage containers;
- Potential for the modernization of the Waste Wizard system currently used by the City and new technology that can be used to help with waste management (e.g. talking bins);
- Space being a premium at festivals and events, and considering this when placing waste receptacles at these types of venues;
- Consider options, including changes in governance, to enhance organization's approach to community waste diversion. Committee questioned how to streamline waste management at festivals and events. Currently several departments are responsible for this service. Waste management and recycling at events is currently coordinated by both Operations and/or Corporate Communications and/or Event Operator.

Committee requested that a meeting be held with representatives from the City's Corporate Communications & Community Engagement Division, and Operations Department to discuss ways to improve waste management at festivals, and events, including ensuring that vendor outputs are recyclable. Staff advised that there is an opportunity to pilot the Generation 3 waste receptacles in key locations in Markham and that technology can be used as part of this pilot project. Funding opportunity should be explored.

Committee also requested that Trinela Cane, Commissioner of Corporate Services, and Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services be invited to a future meeting to discuss some of the challenges the City is facing with respect to waste management and recycling at events, festivals and public spaces, and how staff can work together to resolve some of these issues.

4. Guest Presentation: Mike Kasij, Manager of Business Development - Sutera Canada Inc.

Mike Kasij, and Bill Higgins, from Sutera Canada Inc. provided a presentation on their system for collecting dog poop and processing the material into an energy bi-product. A copy of the presentation was circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

Some of the highlights of the presentation included:

- It is important to keep dog waste out of landfills, water bodies, and sewer systems, as it is toxic and not biodegradable, and is responsible for approximately 20 to 30% of all water contamination;
- An effective way of managing the toxicity of dog poop is to divert it;

- The Sutera system provides a system to divert the dog poop that is branded, easily visible, clean, odorless, and not very labour intensive to maintain;
- The City can customize (if it likes) the branding of the units if it decides to install the units;
- The mobile app linked to the unit can be used by the city to raise sponsorship funds or to promote its services;
- Units can be reached in remote locations and are emptied by vacuuming out the contents;
- Units need to be emptied on average every 4 to 6 weeks, but it varies based on where the unit is located;
- Units are best located in parks where residents regularly walk their dogs or in high density housing complexes, like condominiums;
- Units last approximately 75 years;
- Units can be vacuumed out if flooded (Sutera to provide more information with respect to how the units will fair in areas that easily flood);
- Waste Management/Operations staff typically know the best locations to place the units in public spaces based on the amount of dog poop found in the waste receptacles;
- Sutera will collect the poop and bring it to a local facility, which will convert the poop and other organics into energy and returned it to the grid;
- Sutera is currently working with an environmental consultant, and the Canadian Green Council on creating incentives for installing the units pre and post construction (Sutera was requested to advocate for high density developments to get LEED certification points for installing the units in new high density developments).

Claudia Marsales noted that the City could potentially request new dog-friendly condominium or high-density developments to install a unit, as part of the development approval process through waste management. Staff can also encourage and suggest existing condominium boards to install the units. It was estimated that there may be approximately seven dogs per residential condominium floor based on a consultant study conducted on the matter.

Committee discussed the Bayfield Beach Study, which found that its beaches were being contaminated by dog poop through water samples taken over a 5 year timeframe. It was requested that a copy of the study be circulated to the Committee.

Committee suggested that the Animal Care Committee be consulted to determine if the City should proceed to pilot the Sutera system at a location in Markham.

Committee discussed increasing dog licensing fees to cover the cost of the units. It was suggested that the Animal Care Committee should be consulted on this idea as it may negatively affect the number of dogs registered. It was also suggested that By-laws and Licensing be consulted.

It was also noted that Markham does accept dog poop in its green bins and that Waterloo does not. Consequently, Markham may not have the same outcome as Waterloo if it decides to proceed with installing the units, as Sutera's data is mostly based on its Waterloo Pilot Project.

Staff were requested to report back on a process for managing dog waste at new and existing multi-residential complexes and that Operations staff be requested to attend a future meeting of the committee to discuss public space applicability.

5. “Best of the Best #2” – Overview

This item was not discussed.

6. Curbside Collection Enhancements Charts

This item was not discussed.

7. Clothing Bin Operators in Appeal – Update

A tentative date of August 27, 2019 has been set for the Licensing Hearing Committee to hear the clothing bin appeals. Staff are also sending a letter to the landowners asking permission to remove the non-compliant clothing bins, as an alternative way of having the bins removed.

8. New Business

Claudia Marsales advised that Markham’s recycling program was referenced in a recent Region of York media release. A copy of the media release was handed out to committee members.

9. Next Meeting Date

Committee requested that the next Waste Diversion Committee be held in two weeks and that the focus of the meeting be on single use plastics.

10. Adjournment

The Waste Diversion Committee adjourned at 12:26 PM.