Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Day: Tuesday
Date: July 9, 2013
Time: 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Location: Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department
Room: Lower Level Training Room

Advisory Committee:
Present:
Mike Ayars, Gary Bergman, Ann Bleed, Jack Coogan, Tim Farmer, Paul Johnson, Dan Kurtzer, Casey Larkins, Jenelle Lust, Coby Mach, Sarah Murtaugh, Adam Prochaska, Sue Quambush, Jane Raybould, Diana Schimek, Cecil Steward, Megan Sullivan, Chris Zegar.

Absent:
Eileen Bergt, Steve Hatten

City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Staff:
Nancy Clark, Gene Hanlon, Sara Hartzell, Milo Mumgaard, Frank Uhlarik, Karla Welding

HDR:
John Dempsey, Adriana Servinsky

Public:
Charles Humble, Greg Kurtzer, Gordon Petrie, Ann Post, Sarah Hanzel, Jim Klien, Jay Kurtzer, Brian Kurtzer

1) The facilitator conducted the Safety Briefing and acknowledged the posted public meeting law.
2) The Committee Chair called the meeting to order.
3) The Committee Chair conducted a roll call of attendance
4) Meeting notes from June 25, 2013 were approved with corrections (misspellings and punctuation errors).
5) An overview was provided of the major changes between the Draft and Final System Definition.
6) The remaining schedule was reviewed. Motion was made and approved to move the August meeting from Tuesday, August 13, 203 to Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Training Room from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.
7) Draft presentation boards for the Open House and Virtual Town Hall meeting were previewed and discussed.
   - A comment was made about the importance of upcoming meetings (and meeting materials) as an initial effort to educate the public about changing the management of solid waste from a largely collection and disposal program to a comprehensive and integrated management system.
   - Several comments were made that it was important to avoid jargon and use of acronyms; keep presentation in simple English and define terms, if needed.
   - Comment was made that topic area boards should provide information on how households or businesses would be impacted.
   - In developing recommendations it was noted that the committee could provide as general a recommendation or as much detail on specific programs as they wish. It was noted that many of the details (and costs) of specific programs would need to be worked out as part of the implementation. It was also noted that the cost and benefit information provided was intended to reflect reasonable expectations, but that until the final details are determined (during implementation) that it was not possible to provide precise estimates of costs.
   - A question was asked on whether the public will be given an opportunity to comment on the recommendations made by the committee. The response provided noted that when the plan goes to elected officials there will be opportunities for the public to comment on the specifics of the plan.
   - A question was asked on how comments would be received from the public. The response provided indicated that at the Open House comment forms will be provided to those who attend. The Virtual (On-Line) Town Hall meeting will have several means to provide comments.
   - A comment was made that Mind Mixer had been used on other projects and it proved difficult to navigate the site and some instructions or tips on how to navigate the site would be useful.
   - A comment was made that when costs for residential curbside recycling are presented that show no increase in costs it is important to explain that the option for City-wide franchise or contract collection reduces costs by increased collection system efficiency (when compared to the current free market system) and these costs reductions off-set the added cost for recycling services.
   - A question was asked if alternative approaches to solid waste and recycling collection and their estimated costs would be presented to the public as part of the public meetings. The response included that it was stated that one of the guiding principles of the planning process was that collection would remain in the private sector and that the costs identified in the System Definition would be presented.

8) An overview was provided of the strategies that would be utilized for making people aware of the opportunities to comment on the Solid Waste Plan.
   - A comment was made that beginning September 1, 2013 the landfill and occupation tax fees will be going up a total of $4 per ton and that the public is unaware of this increase and a press release needs to be sent out related to this increase.
   - A comment was made that in the publicity for the public meetings it is important to outline that households and businesses would be impacted.

9) The discussion on developing the recommendations for the solid waste plan was tabled until the August 27th meeting.

10) The meeting was opened for public comments. None were provided.

11) The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting.