

City of Duarte
Public Services Commission
March 14, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 :00 pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dalessandro led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Dalessandro, Gallivan, Heany and Tse

Staff: Petersen

4. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS ON THE AGENDA

June Ehemann reported that she was having issues with Frontier on setting up internet service. Commissioners suggested that she reach out to Charter Communications given the report that was given at the last Commission meeting and the services that the Charter representative spoke about. Ms. Ehemann also reported that there was a crosswalk and ramp situation down by IHOP and Walmart that had cars parking in front of it.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gallivan made a motion to approve the minutes. Heany seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote.

6. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Commission Reorganization

Petersen asked for nominations for Chair and Commissioner Dalessandro nominated Commissioner Heany as Chair. The motion was approved by unanimous vote. Commissioner Heany opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Gallivan nominated Commissioner Dalessandro as Vice Chair and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B. In advance of the meeting Commissioners were provided a packet of information with both the pro and the con side of a polystyrene ban. This included 1) information provided by Brian Tindall, a Monrovia resident, who has attended several City Council meetings, 2) various pro/con articles from the internet, 3) a staff report from the City of Monrovia and 4) a summary report from the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, who was asked to weigh in on this topic on behalf of the Duarte business community. The same information is attached to this report.

During the meeting, Sheryl Lefmann, Duarte Chamber of Commerce President, reported that based on their own research, the segment of

businesses that would be most impacted by a ban of polystyrene food service products would be restaurants and businesses that sell supplies to restaurants. Based on a brief survey of their membership, those that responded felt that they could not afford to convert away from the use of polystyrene products given that their margins are already so small. Independently the Chamber of Commerce confirmed that Non-polystyrene products are significantly higher in cost than their counterparts. The Chamber also reported that other communities that had adopted bans generally had very extensive lists of exemptions, making it complicated and unclear as to how beneficial the impact of the ban will be.

Ms. Lefmann then introduced Robb Korincke of Dart Container Corporation who presented technical information about polystyrene and noted that there were definitely polystyrene-recycling programs out there, but that a ban on polystyrene would not reduce the waste stream it would just replace it with another product.

Ms. Petersen reported that Burrtec Waste does implement a polystyrene recycling program at the West Valley MRF in Fontana and the Agua Mansa MRF in Jurupa Valley. However, this program is largely focused on the large commercial or industrial polystyrene packaging businesses, so very few loads from Duarte are taken to these facilities. Most of the City's waste is taken to the Azusa Waste Management facility, which does not recycle polystyrene. Burrtec could set up a recycling program in Duarte for polystyrene. However, their initial assessment is that there is likely very little polystyrene in Duarte's waste by percentage and further that the diversion impacts would be smaller yet if a program was implemented.

The Commission discussed their own individual perspectives and both sides of the argument for and against the ban of polystyrene.

Staff reported that the City of Monrovia adopted a resolution that bans polystyrene food service containers in City Facilities and creates a public education program aimed at encouraging minimized use of polystyrene. The Commissioners did not think that it would make a big impact on the issue and they felt that a focus on education on polystyrene alone was too narrow.

The Commission suggested that there not be a specific ban on polystyrene nor a public education program specifically on polystyrene at this time. Instead they recommended that the City should consider an overall litter reduction program that includes education, outreach or community partnerships with businesses and residents. They brought up clean-up programs such as Azusa Beautiful, which is a non-profit group in Azusa that receives City dollars to conduct cleanup events throughout Azusa. The Commission brainstormed about several possible programs including; a public awareness campaign about keeping the City clean and that highlights and encourages the use of the

recycling opportunities already in the City; a program to distribute reusable containers and educate on the need to reduce single use containers; development of public education materials particularly for businesses that suggest more environmentally friendly alternatives when re-use is not an option (including paper products, recyclable plastics and bio-products); new outreach programs with businesses to conduct cleanup efforts particularly in shared parking lots; and creative solutions from Burrtec for trash and recycling options in multi-tenant shopping centers.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

There were no items from the commission members.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dalessandro moved to adjourn and Commissioner Gallivan seconded to adjourn at 8:45 pm.