

# MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



## NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD

### TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

March 9, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

6:04 pm

### ROLL CALL

- List of Board Members Present -
  - Danielle Buttke – Chair
  - Barry Noon
  - Dawson Metcalf
  - Drew Derderian
  - Hillary Mizia
  - Victoria McKennan
  - Kevin Krause – Vice Chair
  - Avneesh Kumar
- List of Board Members Absent – Excused or Unexcused; if no contact with Chair has been made
- List of Staff Members Present
  - Honore Depew, Staff Liaison
  - Ashley Pace
  - Caroline Mitchell
- List of Guests
  - none

### 1. AGENDA REVIEW

- a. Danielle reached out stating she was going to be late to the meeting and Kevin stated he had limited availability, so they would need someone to act as chair.
  - Kevin nominated Victoria to be acting chair and Hillary seconded. Passed unanimously. 4-0
- b. No changes to agenda

### 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY

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- a. Drew moved and Kevin seconded a motion to approve the February minutes with no changes. Motion passed unanimously. 4-0

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Curbside Trash and Recycling Contract** – Caroline Mitchell, Waste Reduction and Recycling Program Manager, shared work being done surrounding the Council priority to explore contracting for household trash and recycling services. City staff will ask what goals Councilmembers would prioritize in a contract during an upcoming work session on April 12.
  - Discussion | Q + A
    - Victoria – **Q** – You mentioned that Fort Collins has a more robust licensing system, why is that and what makes Fort Collins unique in that? Caroline – **A** – The norm across the country is either have contracted services or municipal services. We are unique not only because we don't do that, but because we also have a strong commitment to waste reduction. Fewer communities license their haulers.
    - Hillary – When Golden was looking at the same process, Hillary was part of their Sustainability Advisory Board. It is a lot of work, so kudos to the team for moving that forward and it is exciting to think Fort Collins can take the next step as it has been a long time coming.
    - Barry – **Q** – Has there been discussions with the individuals who drive and man the trucks who are local members of our community; what are their perspectives? If the city were to adopt, what would be the effects of the employment for these local people? Caroline – **A** – To clarify we are not discussing the City taking over the hauling business itself, but to issue a contract to haulers. One decision point is if it would be one contract or create districts and contract multiple haulers. We have not conducted engagement with drivers specifically. One key element is that these companies are nationally owned, so it is safe to say there are other communities in Northern Colorado that would continue to use their service. The specifics of what would happen to each company would vary. Barry wanted to express concern for the people who do the actual work and if their perspectives were being considered in the deliberation.
    - Hillary – **Q** – How do HOAs play into this and what about commercial recycling and trash? Caroline – **A** – Colorado State Law states that municipalities are not allowed to contract or service for commercial or multifamily structures of eight units or more. The contract would only apply to single family homes. We are gathering contact information for HOA's who currently are contracted to get their feedback. We are thinking they could

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either opt in or just roll into the City once their current contracts expire.

- Hillary – **Q** – What percentage of trash hauling is single family vs commercial and multifamily complexes? Caroline – **A** – We don't have the number of locations, but volume-wise it is about 50/50.
- Kevin – **Q** – Does that 50/50 still apply in terms of miles traveled? Caroline – **A** – We don't have analysis of the numbers of miles traveled by the vehicles. We would have to dial in with traffic engineers to see if there is a way we could get that. Kevin would be interested to see if the numbers based on volume holds up against other impacts.
- Drew – **Q** – What is the timeline to offer to Council, to switch to a contract? Caroline – **A** – We are working toward a decision on which hauler by the end of the year. There will be some gap time between making the decision and implementation as there are a lot of logistics involved. Based on conversations with haulers, we are looking at anywhere between six months and a one-year gap.
- Victoria – **Q** – What is the best way to provide feedback. Caroline – **A** – For individual response I am happy to gather that now or you can through the questionnaire. If you want to provide feedback as NRAB, that is usually shared with Council through a memo. Honore – This will not be the only opportunity to weigh in. Staff also tends to attach minutes to the materials for City Council to see thoughts and questions.
- Barry – Speaking for himself: No strong perspectives right now. Trusts how staff and Council will approach this issue.
- Kevin echoes Barry's thoughts. The areas that are being focused on are appropriate and correlate to the City and Council's goals. They are going in the right direction and supports those focus areas. Would be interested in weighing in once they get more feedback from the work session and when there are more specific things on the table.
- Drew supports the general idea of pushing toward a contract system. Recommends being cautionary in rushing the gap period, as a year seems quick.

- b. Our Climate Future Update** – Honore Depew, Climate Program Manager, shared updates on implementation of the Our Climate Future (OCF) plan and seek input on proposed community engagement, including for the Council priority to explore climate emergency messaging and review community climate goals. This item will be discussed by City Council at an April 12 work session.

# MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



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### TYPE OF MEETING – REGULAR

June 15, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

6:02 pm

### ROLL CALL

- List of Board Members Present –
  - Barry Noon
  - Dawson Metcalf - Chair
  - Drew Derderian
  - Victoria McKennan
  - Kevin Krause- Vice Chair
  - Danielle Buttke – arrived 6:35
  
- List of Board Members Absent – Excused or Unexcused, if no contact with Chair has been made
  - Avneesh Kumar
  
- List of Staff Members Present
  - Honore Depew, Staff Liaison
  - John Phelan
  - Kira Beckham
  - Kelly Smith
  
- List of Guests
  - Galemarie Kimmel
  - Jennifer Sunderland
  - Marie Hendrix

### 1. AGENDA REVIEW

- a. No changes to agenda

### 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. **Rights of Nature** – Galemarie Kimmel, Jennifer Sunderland, and Marie Hendrix joined to talk about a resolution for the rights of nature on the Poudre River. They provided materials that had a resolution that is based on a template from the Earth Law Center that has successfully been adopted in other communities around Colorado and the

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decision or direction Council decides. I really encourage the City to carefully think about behavior of change approaches, marketing, and rolling these out because we know there is a very well-funded anti-solar campaign happening.

- b. Contracting of Waste Pick-up and Hauling** – Kira Beckham, Lead Specialist for Waste Reduction & Recycling, presented and discussed considerations for a contracted system of waste pick-up and hauling for households within the Fort Collins community and received feedback on options for the issuing a request for proposals (RFP) and hauler selection process, prior to a July 12 Council Work Session. (Action)
- Discussion | Q + A
    - Danielle – **Q** – I appreciate data where you can pinpoint wear and tear on the roads because of the multiple heavy trucks. Is there any data from other communities on a similar analysis regarding air pollution specifically thinking about diesel and being that it is one of the most harmful pollutants from a human health perspective? We are in one of the worst air quality cities in the nation and there are not that many diesel sources that are this heavy of use. Kira – **A** – We have come across that data and have looked at the overall emissions. What is interesting is when we looked at the emissions that are impacted, when you bump them up against the overall greenhouse gas inventory, they are a small percent of the overall picture. We see more measurable success when we start playing in the compost and waste diversion. The road maintenance becomes more quantifiable factor for us than the emissions themselves. Danielle – **Comment** – If you look specifically at black soot, PM2.5, and nitrous oxide, you might find more of a contribution from these trucks as those are unique to diesel trucks and are higher, the heavier the vehicle. Kira – **Comment** – One element we didn't go into a lot of detail in because we are still exploring it is we can look to require moving toward compressed natural gas (CNG) or electric vehicles (EV). The big win with a contracted system is we can start small and grow overtime; it gives us the foundation we need to start to move in that direction. On one side you have price and the other hand the different attributes we can ask for. It will be a tradeoff. Danielle – **Comment** – I think that is also a great opportunity to think about those things. Middlebury, Vermont has trash haulers that use horse and buggy. It can be done and there are other options out there. I think incorporating language so that this can be flexible and adaptable based on regulations and technology as it comes out will be key. Kira – **Comment** – The contract terms then to be in the range of 3-7 years.
    - Danielle – **Comment** – There is always going to be this chicken and egg problem. There isn't going to be a food scrap facility or service until you have

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people that are willing to bring it. Market players can have outsized impacts on development of new markets for these products or development of food scrap composting. I think that is another incentive point if you are looking at rating and ranking RFPs; one might have a relationship with a potential food scrap facility. Kira – **Comment** – Part of that discussion relates to the Larimer County Landfill, the Regional Wasteshed, and the capabilities new facilities may have. So we do have a team working closely with them to understand what will and will not be possible and how local flow control of various materials might influence that. They are very passionate about getting to haulers having those relationships or their own capabilities. It will be key. One question we have gotten a lot from the community is about what will happen to the haulers/owners that don't get selected if we go with a one contract system. The contract wouldn't be implemented for 12-18 months after a final decision has been made so there is time for the haulers to respond and adjust staffing levels. They will still have several HOA customers that are already contracted. Three out of four haulers are large national haulers that are used to these shifts at local markets and also service surrounding areas.

- Kevin – **Comment** – I love this project and I think it's so on point and big for the community based on the data and some of the goals. I just want to piggyback on Danielle's point of not just looking at greenhouse gas emissions. The one thing that came to mind is tire particulate because that alone for a bunch of heavy trucks is not insignificant. There are a bunch of these layers that make it so obvious that this is a great path for our community, and I would love to see as many of those pointed out as possible. Just as far as other options for actual service for lessening waste in the community and increasing efficiency has been to do every other week option for trash; our small bin is still too big for us. Kira – **Comment** – Those are two things we have heard loud and clear from our community. They want that very low volume option, not only for pricing but because it is the right thing to do. We are looking at an individual bag capability and have explored the idea of every other week trash. Right now, our base model is assuming weekly trash and recycling and, if we bundle it, yard waste. The main reason for that is the efficiency's but we are looking at all the considerations. I think that also becomes an even more viable solution as we get increased composting for food scraps because that eliminates a lot of concerns about rodents and smell that become a real factor when talking about what's currently in people's trash.
- Kevin – **Comment** – I am curious if we talk about solar, paying your own way and equity, I am curious if you start to thread some of these things together. Let's say I opt for a 75-gallon bin every week because I throw everything in the trash and don't compost or reduce where I can versus being a really low

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trash user. Are the heavy trash users paying their own way in the community because they are increasing impacts on the roads, other facilities, and emissions? I think this is a bigger discussion for our board later, but it feels funny to me. Maybe the pricing and incentives will play out. There is the cost of the disposal but then there is an impact on city facilities like roads but just having more waste. Kira – **Comment** – We are looking at that, but it is a little tricky in terms of the pay as you throw design to charge more from a rate perspective for the heavy users directly. One of the other things that we have recognized with the increased price that is incurred from an open market system today is there are communities that charge a road impact fee because the city is subsidizing. So, there are considerations on a road maintenance fee and that fee shrinks a lot when you move to a contracted system because you have a lower impact on your roads.

- Dawson – **Q** – What is the timeline on crafting a memo? Kira – **A** – The July 12<sup>th</sup> work session materials are due by Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Honore – **Q** – If the Board decides to act related to this item, I saw you presented on two options. Is there one that is a staff recommendation or are you presenting them side by side as options? I know this board tends to be concerned about overall ways to reduce waste, emissions and be efficient, so is there one option that would be more effective in advancing towards adopted goals? Kira – **A** – I think it really depends on which one you are homing in on. Whether you are focusing on diversion, equity, or something else. We have a recommended package but again that doesn't narrow on things like yard trimmings, so I think I would almost suggest focusing more on some of those nuisances or in general in favor of a contracted system. I think it might be the independent elements that become more important to Council and speaks loudly.
- Kira will share slides with Board.

**c. 1041 Rules** – Kelly Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, discussed Draft 1041 Regulations, next steps in the process and provided an overview of how engagement has influenced the Draft Regulations, prior to a June 28 Council Work Session. (Discussion)

- **Danielle** – **Q** – It is interesting to see how many proposals have already been considered under this new framework and authority. I had traditionally thought of this as a niche issue, but it is broader. Is this volume backed logged because of not having this mechanism in place, is this a typical number of permits, or do you anticipate seeing many more of these moving forward? Kelly – **A** – The slide that oriented you to some of the projects,

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those are projects that we have reviewed already through the SPAR process. That gives you sort of a prospective of how the mechanics would work for this tiered system. In terms of potential projects, I have met with several water providers, and we will see a lot more water projects. It is doubtful we will see a lot of highway projects; they are just not significant enough. The one that might trigger a permit is the Mulberry/I-25 project because interchanges are included in that. As for City projects, pretty much all our utility infrastructure is built, so we don't anticipate anything coming through at this moment.

- **Kevin – Q** – The Board had expressed support in the past for moving towards this system. It seems like a while ago for some of that understanding the timeline to show for how critical is it that this Board continues to express any specific support. I know it was mentioned earlier that the LCSB express support just for context. I know we must go back and talk about some other items from earlier in our meeting and some actions we want to take, but maybe just personally just for thoughts on how important it is we continue to weigh in right now based on momentum, the direction, and so forth. Kelly – **A** – Yes. I will say something that was brought up at LCSB is that whether there are folks that are opposed. There are some groups who are in support and some who are not. I think if you are in support of this project, it would be helpful for City Council to know. I am not suggesting to voice support for a tiered system or getting really specific but in general your support for the project and what it offers the City as a regulatory tool would be really important for City Council to know. I will be coming back after the City Council work session to let you know updates because I anticipate other changes happening to the code. I would love to hear your thoughts and get a final recommendation once this project is ready for adoption.
  - Danielle – **Q** – As a memo, meeting minutes, or both? Kelly – **A** – Memo or meeting minutes are fine. I just submitted all my materials today, but I can add it as an attachment later. Whatever works for you.
- Danielle – **Comment** – I will say I just really appreciate this project. I think it is critically important to have oversight that is necessary, particularly when there is a lot of special interest more involved at County levels. I appreciate the nature of this process, as well as the time and effort that goes into it. I think it is critically important to have in place.
- Kevin – **Comment** – I fully agree, for the purpose of the minutes, that I am highly supportive of this tool and the examples were shown to be needed for the best interest of citizens and City assets like the lands the City resides on.
- Dawson – **Comment** – In purpose of the minute as well, I do support going forward with this project.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS



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#### a. Memo for Graywater

- Dawson sent the memo to everyone. Honore reminded the team that they already voted to approve the support memo in April. The memo includes structuring the ordinance so it can adopt new allowances aligned with State regulations if water rights are modernized. Kevin included a line about hope that the City can advocate at a higher level for subsurface irrigation.

#### b. Memo for Contracting for Waste Pick-up & Hauling

- Danielle makes a motion that the Board approve a memo in support for the waste hauling plan that was presented with the addition of advocating for incentives to rate proposals that have either lower emissions, zero emissions, or future for lower emission vehicles and that allows for faster and/or more accessible food scrap pick up in the contract. Dawson Seconds. **Passes 4-0-1.**
- Dawson will work on the memo and will send it out to the Board.
- The Board discussed the option to have an in-person board meeting as it would be nice to meet everyone in person but for environmental reason go back to virtual meetings after. They decided on an in-person meeting for their May 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- Board members looked at upcoming subjects through the summer. There was interest shown in land use code, trash/recycling contracting, active modes plan draft recommendations, Halligan water supply project update, and budget review.

#### c. Rights of Nature Presentation

- Dawson asked if they wanted to review the resolution they presented first and then discuss at the next meeting or if they just wanted to invite them for an actual conversation as part of the agenda.
- Danielle – **Comment** – I feel like since we have had discussions around this topic before, unless others feel strongly, I support inviting them as a formal agenda item on our next meeting.
- Kevin – **Comment** – I would support that. I don't think it is detrimental based on our area of focus in terms of the public being able to find the way onto their agenda. I think that and knowing their conversations going on with City Council.
- Dawson – **Q** – Is an invitation for 30 minutes regular? Honore – **A** – I have been trying to support you by putting three items on the agenda and keep them at 30 minutes and see how that goes. It is up to you all though. Staff



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**MEMORANDUM**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY BOARD**

**DATE:** July 6, 2022  
**TO:** Mayor and City Council Members  
**FROM:** Natural Resources Advisory Board  
**SUBJECT:** Contracting of Waste Pick-Up and Hauling Proposal

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

On June 15, 2022, Kira Beckham, Lead Specialist for Waste Reduction and Recycling, presented on the council priority of exploring a districted system for garbage, recycling, and compost, and the subsequent recommendations for a single-hauler contracted system. The purpose of this memo is to express the Board's support for the proposed single-hauler contracted system for waste pick-up and hauling. The Board further supports the adoption of Package B, the diversion-focused option. As a Board that prioritizes the conservation of natural resources and the impact they have on the future of our community, we see the single-hauler contracted system as beneficial because it foremost allows for fewer haulers to be on the road. The benefits of this include:

- A decrease in greenhouse gas and other harmful emissions
- An improvement in air quality to benefit public health
- A decrease in street maintenance costs associated with having fewer haulers on the streets
- An increase in safety for all users of city streets, especially within our neighborhoods

The Board supports the diversion-focused option, or Package B, and promotes the inclusion of the following items that will provide additional environmental and social benefits to Fort Collins community members:

- Yard trimmings to be bundled with waste/recycling
- Addition of composting when available
- Bulky waste collection by request
- Low-income program
- Alley and valet service



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Additionally, the Board would like to advocate for lower and zero-emission vehicle options as it pertains to the review process of future and/or continued contracts for a single-hauler system. We see this as instrumental in achieving Our Climate Future goals, particularly as it pertains to the “Big Move 2: Zero Waste Neighborhoods” and additional environmental health goals outlined in the City’s strategic plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this issue and its future implications for the community.

Very Respectfully,

Dawson Metcalf, MS  
Chair, Natural Resources Advisory Board