



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 12, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Knapek at 5:03 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knapek, Vice-Chair Vickie Violet, Marijo Hain, Jan Call, Eileen Rathbun, Susan Dergantz, and Leslie Ganser. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Guest present: Julia Judson, Anoka County

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Violet, seconded by Hain to re-elect Cheryl Knapek as Chairperson.

7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

A motion was made by Knapek, seconded by Dergantz to re-elect Vicki Violet as Vice-Chairperson

7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS AND CITY CODE CHAPTER 70

Bowman stated that reviewing the mission statement was listed as a goal but it is often done at the start of each year. Call said it may be a little long and need some discussion. Knapek suggested we put this on the February agenda.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 10, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Hain made a request that the minutes include the title of Chair and Vice-Chair when recording attendance.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HAIN, SECONDED BY VIOLET TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10TH MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. 7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Julia Judson from Anoka County provided a summary of the project to date. Her report was included as Attachment 4 in packets. She is currently working with four multi-family properties and has two more scheduled. She has been implementing signage and giving tenants recycling guide. Bowman asked about signage and Julia provided photos. A few of the property managers have asked Julia to schedule an educational meeting and others prefer to hand out materials. Tenants seem to appreciate the recycling clings, information and totes. Rathbun asked if they have dumpsters and if they have enough dumpsters. Julia responded that some have dumpsters and there are enough containers. She hopes providing the recycling totes will eliminate the use of plastic bags. Members congratulated Julia on doing a good job. Violet asked how to contact Julia if we would like her to do something extra and Bowman suggested members contact Bowman.
- **Organics** – Bowman felt the open house was very good. Approximately 30 people came and picked up kits. The open house generated some really good conversations and it was apparent people were passionate about recycling.

Containers kits are available by the reception area in Community Development. It is estimated was are nearing 55 people being very active in the program. Dergantz said there are probably a lot more people participating than the 55 who have picked up kits. Many, like herself, began organics before the kits were available or picked them up from Anoka County. The signs from Anoka County were just delivered. Public Services crew are very busy with snow removal but will install the signs and bag dispenser. Bowman put up temporary signs for now. The first service was today and people may have noticed it was quite full. It has been out there for four weeks and from now on it will be a weekly service. Bowman had asked people to report contamination and while she did get a report, upon further checking there did not appear to be any contamination. Lots of pizza boxes. Bowman did get a complaint about the snow and she shoveled a path to help the hauler. She left a shovel there for now. Ganser asked if we should set up a schedule for volunteers to clear snow. Dergantz and Knapek both offered they would shovel when they see the need. Ganser said she would too but wondered if we should set up a schedule for the future. Julia offered that perhaps new Recycling Ambassadors could assist.

- **Plastics** – Bowman ran into a community member who was collecting plastics for the school. The group was just 50 pounds shy of their goal at Christmas time. Bowman was happy to hear that and that they will rotate through the schools. The bench program works a little different for schools than it did for this board. Bowman also heard the Rum River Arts Center is now recycling to earn a bench.
- **Aluminum Can Recycling Trailer Update** – Bowman reported the equipment has been purchased but the labor to construct the door and step is on hold. Public Services has a heavy workload right now but hopefully they will get to this early in the spring. Bowman said they will get one to the Aquatics Center by the time they open. Rathbun asked if we should move the one by the ice arena over by the organics so we have one-stop recycling. Bowman can look into that but she is concerned it will begin to look like a big drop off area and this is not a dump.
- **Holiday Lights Collection Update** – Bowman is working with Rick Seitz with Green & Clean out of Ramsey. He was formerly with Green Lights Recycling. Green & Clean has offered to pick up the lights as Green Lights will not. They picked up today and the collection filled the back of his pickup truck. Violet asked if there has been some concern about the visibility of all the stuff being collected at city hall. Bowman replied that it has been a concern and other locations have been discussed (Green Haven, Senior Center, and Aquatic Center during summer) Violet commented that it is a shame to use a corridor at City Hall and have that mess there.
- **2021 Accomplishments**
 1. Smooth transition for residents with new hauler
 2. Earning a park bench through plastics recycling
 3. Starting the organics program
 4. Recycling can trailer
 5. Improved communication with 3rd newsletter

**A motion was made by Call, seconded by Dergantz to approve the above listed accomplishments for 2021.
7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed**

- **2022 Goals** – members discussed goals for 2022. In response to Violet’s comments earlier about collecting recycling at city hall, members discussed the possibility of a city recycling center. Bowman agreed that having one central location would be a better solution and said the city manager is for this. Violet said she is sure that City Council would be 100% behind this as well. The question is how to get to that point and would it require a recycling manager. Bowman suggested we model after Coon Rapids. They have a recycling center manager with support of a core of volunteers. There was further discussion about a city wide garage sale and little libraries. The

garage sale could be in partnership with another organization such as Women of Today. For the free libraries, there was a discussion on who would build them. Often homeowners will provide their own but the high school has both a cabinetry and architecture program that might be interested in this. Rathbun asked if there were specifications that needed to be followed and Violet said that is only if you want to be registered with Free Little Libraries. There is a \$200 fee to be on their listing and they provide an official plaque. Knappek suggested we start with just one library for now and that the site is yet to be determined. After much discussion the following goals were established:

1. Expand the organics program
2. Work closely with Green Corps members to improve multi-family recycling
3. Implement city managed free library
4. Discuss and research the idea of a city wide garage sale
5. Research and discuss a potential city recycling center

**A motion was made by Rathbun, seconded by Hain to establish the above 5 goals for 2022.
7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed**

- **2022 Recycling Events Update** – Bowman reported that the former Green Lights Recycling is now Recycling Technology. To have our events on April 30th and September 24th they will need to charge us for additional trucks. They are not raising rates but are raising labor fees. Dergantz asked if we are tied to them for this year. Bowman replied that we are and that we can look at other companies for better rates. Bowman said we are also tied to a fall recycling date for this year but we can evaluate that after this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Anoka Winterfest** – This annual event is scheduled for February 5th. All events will be outdoors. Art Start will provide educational kits. If the weather is -10 degrees the event will have to be cancelled.
- **City Garage Sale** – Violet suggested we consider partnering with Women of Today. Bowman offered to reach out to them and see if they are interested. Violet proposes that we don't host the event but help with publishing and schedule recycling pick up for left over items. Ganser asked if it would be better to schedule this when there is another event going on in the city. Violet stated that with another event going on, both the police and public services departments would be stretched thin. Knappek suggested we look at when surrounding cities are holding theirs. She also suggested that we not get it done this year but come to the February meeting with ideas.
- **Free Library** – Knappek asked if we wanted to start this project now. Ganser said we need to figure out who will build the library. Violet said that is part of an ongoing discussion and maybe it would be a Boy Scout project. Dergantz suggested it could be a Girl Scout project and Violet agreed. Violet asked if we should have a smaller group to discuss this or continue as a board discussion. Ganser and Dergantz volunteered to research this further.
- **Score Report** – Bowman does not have everything complete but will report at the February meeting with tonnage, etc.
- **2022 Recycling Information** – Bowman said everyone should have received a postcard in the mail. While most members had, both Hain and Dergantz said they did not receive the postcard. Bowman suggested going to the web site and enter your address to find out the recycling dates. Weeks are coded red or black and so is your address.
- **Meetings & Activities Schedule** – A draft schedule is included with packets. We still need to discuss the date for the pumpkin smash. Anoka County will determine if there will be a fix it clinic, which was cancelled last year due

to Covid. Knapek asked if they next volunteer opportunity would be April 30th and Bowman responded yes, then September 24th, followed by the pumpkin smash.

GENERAL RECYLCING QUESTIONS – Call brought in some plastic packaging that she was told could be recycled. Board members confirmed that it is not something that can be recycled. Call pointed out that more education is needed because people see the triangle and think they can recycle. Knapek said “when in doubt, throw it out.” Discussion followed about how one item could cause contamination. Bowman said she would like to organize a tour so members could see first-hand how items are sorted. Julia Judson offered that the City of Eureka is going a virtual tour and if you have a large enough group, they will bring you in for a tour. The virtual tour is done via Zoom so there is time for Q&A after. Judson said the tour takes about 1.5 hours and the Green Corps members found it interesting. Bowman will check into this and consider switching one of the upcoming meetings to a tour of a recycling facility.

Rathbun asked if the books were out of the warming house. Bowman responded that they will remain for the season and people can visit the warming house at Sorenson and pick up books. Ganser commented that this is kind of our original “free library”.

Rathbun asked if aluminum foil should go in trash. Dergantz replied that if it is clean it can be crumpled to fist size and recycled. This carried into a discussion on not crushing cans and keeping caps on water bottles so they don’t jam the machinery. Dergantz wondered if she was being too picky removing all windows off window envelopes and wondered about stamps. Bowman said she did not think so but there are many details and they change every year and each hauler has their own rules.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. on a MOTION by Dergantz and SECONDED Call.