



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hain at 4:05 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall. The time was changed due to another city Board overlapping in the use of Zoom.

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chairperson Marijo Hain, Sue Dergantz, Jan Call, Eileen Rathbun, and Vicki Violet. Absent: VC Cheryl Knapek. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Others Present: Resident Jim Call arrived at 5:15 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE Ms. Bowman congratulated members Jan Call, Sue Dergantz and Eileen Rathbun on their reappointments to the Board. Each took the Oath of Office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS Member Rathbun nominated VC Knapek for Chairperson. No other nominations were made. Member Rathbun made a MOTION to elect VC Knapek as Chairperson, Member Dergantz SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Member Dergantz nominated Member Violet as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. Member Dergantz made a MOTION to elect Member Violet as Vice Chair, Member Hain SECONDED. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Newly elected VC Violet suggested Member Hain continue to conduct the meeting in the absence of newly elected Chairperson Knapek.

REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS AND CITY CODE CHAPTER 70

Ms. Bowman said the information was included as a refresher for all members. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

Member Call noted two errors; an extra word “working” on page 2 under Multi-Family and the word “was” should be “wax” on page 2 under Recycling Resolution 2021. With those changes, Member Dergantz made a MOTION to approve the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Member Call; all in favor, MOTION carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Residential Recycling Contract. Ms. Bowman reported the following:

- The approved contract and a thank you letter from ACE are included in the packet. The Council approved the contract on Dec. 21st.
- I have worked with Utility Billing and Republic to confirm SF and MF property addresses.
- Thank you to Marijo, Sue and Cheryl for helping me with cart and container inventory at various MF properties. We inventoried 90+ properties.
- Ace has already implemented the SF addresses into their system. We are finalizing the details of MF addresses and inventory.

- Randy Triplett and Derek Drews will attend the February WRRB meeting to share the roll out plan with you and answer questions.
- The plan as of today is to begin cart delivery the week of March 15th and completed by March 26th. The carts will each have a plastic bag tied to the cart and inside will be Recycle Right information, ReCollect information, collection calendar, and a large note saying “don’t use me or place out for collection until April 1st”. They can also include information about when Republic will remove the carts if we want. Once they have all the pieces together, they will get them to me for our review.
- This information will be included in the annual report to City Council so we can get it out to the public that way, as well, as through our City View and RAW newsletters, social media, website, e-alerts, etc.

Member Dergantz noted that while doing inventory of the multi-family properties, some carts were overflowing and it seemed as though there were not enough carts. She asked if more could be added to the list. Ms. Bowman said she was making notes such as that on various properties and she recalled the property Member Dergantz referenced, Verndale. She reminded the members that the carts being delivered from Ace are the 95 gallon, vs. the typically 65 gallon which most properties have. This should eliminate the need for additional carts.

Acting Chair Hain said she noticed that the containers need to be labeled better. Ms. Bowman said she agreed and believes Ace will start out with that detail in mind. She said Republic’s trash containers have their logo which looks like the chasing arrows, similar to recycling and said that may cause confusion regardless of how many labels are placed on the recycling containers.

2020 Accomplishments and 2021-2022 Goals. After review, revisions and discussion of the draft lists, Member Call made a MOTION to approve the 2020 Accomplishments and 2021 Goals; **SECONDED** by Member Rathbun. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2020 Accomplishments:

- Distributed Request for Proposal; awarded new residential recycling contract.
- Published a third RAW publication.
- Held three successful recycling events, resulting in 80+ tons.
- Began educating the public on organics recycling.
- Organized successful Pumpkin Smash/Book Upcycle event with Parks Department.

2021-2022 Goals:

- Implement organics recycling drop off collection.
- Coordinator a smooth transition with Ace Solid Waste for recycling service.
- Educate ways to reduce the reliance on plastic products.
- Enhance marketing and social media presence.
- Add second Waterfowl for Warriors can collection trailer.

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Over 90 properties were inventoried for carts and containers by staff, Chair Knappek and Members Hain and Dergantz.
- **Organics** – Member Dergantz said she would prepare an article for the spring issue of RAW. She inquired if it would be possible to implement a collection by summer and then she would also prepare an article for the summer

issue of RAW. Ms. Bowman said she would like to meet with Member Dergantz and the Anoka County representative that works with organics to discuss details. Ms. Bowman said she is most concerned with finding a location. Member Dergantz said she recalled talking with Ms. Bowman and two sites were mentioned; 501 Pierce and another. Ms. Bowman said she is hesitant to have a collection at 501 Pierce because it is a gated facility with a lot of equipment from Public Services and the Electric Department. She said she would review her notes and see if she can recall further. She said she will work to set a meeting to proceed.

Recycling Resolution 2021. Ms. Bowman provided an updated version of the resolution for review. Member Rathbun asked to remove the reference to “Target” and instead list “local businesses”. Ms. Bowman said with that change she would prepare the resolution to place it in the spring issue of the RAW newsletter and that she would include it on the website, and work on a social media post. Ms. Bowman reminded them of Member Violet’s suggestion for social media, “what is your plastic resolution”. Ms. Bowman said she will also provide the plastics tonnage information from 2019 and 2020 with all the communications, as requested by Member.

Member Dergantz explained some tips she learned on social media under True Earth Challenge about how to get rid of plastics in your home. She suggested maybe a before and after photo would be ideal for a social media post.

Members reviewed the list of websites that sold earth friendly products. Having no changes, Ms. Bowman said she would also post this on the city website.

NexTrex. Ms. Bowman reported that the city of Columbia Heights was awarded 3 park benches through this program over the last two years. She shared the information Columbia Heights shared with her:

- They collect plastic bags and films from the public at their recycling center, city hall, and Murzyn Hall (recreation building).
- They also collect from the City liquor stores and the local school districts from their own operations and employees. Those facilities did not want public drop-off due to the potential mess and inability of having someone monitor it and willing to clean it up daily.
- They take the collected plastics to Coon Rapids as they have a baler and organize shipment to recyclers.
- Columbia Heights uses large 50 gallon (janitor) clear bags to collect. In the beginning they weighed a bunch of bags and recorded the results, between 10 and 12 lbs. each. They showed Trex the amounts and asked if they could average 10 lbs./full 50 gal bags, so they would only have to count the full bags and multiply by 10 lbs., instead of weighing each and every bag. That was approved.
- More details https://documents.trex.com/is/content/Trex/trex-community-recycling-challenge-information-sheetpdf.pdf#_ga=2.237501699.283820606.1608044915-832796419.1583333760

Ms. Bowman noted the work related to maintenance and said a collection location would need to be determined and someone would need to monitor and maintain it. She said it is easy for Columbia Heights because they have a recycling center. Member Dergantz asked if the City Council would consider a recycling center. Ms. Bowman said she thought that would definitely be a consideration if all of the information were presented to them, but that it wouldn’t be possible for several years. She suggested it as a future goal.

Member Rathbun suggested partnering with another city such as Andover, which has a recycling center. VC Violet suggested partnering with a civic group that would have available storage space.

Ms. Bowman suggested a subcommittee work on plastics overall and then focus on this program. Members Dergantz and Rathbun said they would both work on the subcommittee.

Ms. Bowman asked members to assist her with developing several social media posts with suggestions of photos ahead of time so she can easily set them up and preschedule them to run.

VC Violet suggested tabling the NexTrex project until the February meeting so more information can be collected. Ms. Bowman said it will be included on the February agenda.

It's In the Bag. Member Call said Cub Foods and Coon Rapids Recycling Center do take plastic bags. Ms. Bowman said she could not find the "It's in the Bag" program online. She is not sure the program still exists, but the retailers are still taking bags. If she learns more, she will inform the members.

Report to City Council. Ms. Bowman announced the report to City Council was moved to March 1, 2021, allowing the opportunity to combine it with the details of the rollout by Ace Solid Waste.

Holiday Lights Collection. Ms. Bowman said the collection is going very well. Member Rathbun said dropped some off and was surprised to see such a large amount of lights. Ms. Bowman said the collection last through the end of January.

Can Collection Trailer. Ms. Bowman said the trailer was emptied again this week and the recycling earned \$160 for the Waterfowl for Warriors program and the weight of the load was 400 pounds.

Ms. Bowman said she has talked with the Public Services staff and they are geared up to build the second trailer. She said plans are in place and the trailer will be stationed at the Anoka Aquatic Center.

Acting Chair Hain suggested the Anoka Aquatic Center lessen the amount of plastic bottles it sells and increase the number of canned beverages to not only help the collection for the trailer, but to lessen the amount of plastic, which is one of the WRRB's goals. Ms. Bowman said she would share the suggestion with the related staff.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 SCORE Report (July-December). Ms. Bowman said she just completed and submitted the expense report today and also turned in the marketing materials and will work on the tonnage report next week. She said the full report will be provided to the Board members at the February meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

2021 Meetings & Activities Schedule. Ms. Bowman reviewed the schedule and made note that the September meeting will change to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. She also said the spring recycling event is April 24th and that she may not be available to attend. She asked the members if they would want her to consider moving the event date or if they felt they could still hold it and run it as needed. Members agreed to keep it for April 24th and that they would work together to follow through on all the details. Member Dergantz asked Ms. Bowman to provide a detailed check list for them. She said she would have all details in place prior and talk to the vendors and Public Services and would provide a check list for the day of the event. She thanked the members for allowing this.

Chairpersons Communication Board Notes. Ms. Bowman said this was included for informational purposes only at the request of the Chairpersons for better communication between Boards & Commissions.

General Recycling Questions. Member Rathbun asked about an update on Anoka Winterfest. Ms. Bowman said it will be held on Saturday, February 13th from Noon – 4 p.m. at George Enloe Park. She said the crafts from ArtStart will be received in the next week or so and will be handed out at the event. She asked is any members would be available to hand out the take-home crafts. Acting Chair Hain said she would attend to help, Member Dergantz and Call said they would help. Ms. Bowman said that many volunteers might not be needed but she will let them know closer to the event. She said

there will only be outdoor activities and no food (unless a food truck is present) will be provided. COVID safety measures will be in place.

Member Call asked if bread bag clips might be used by ArtStart. Ms. Bowman said they might be able to use them. Member Call also asked about a specific type of toothpaste boxboard, and a pill bottle. It was agreed the toothpaste box was recyclable, but opinions varied on the pill bottle due to its size.

Acting Chair Hain provided a sample of a refillable dish soap packet from an online company.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on a MOTION by Acting Chair Hain and SECONDED by Member Dergantz. All in favor; MOTION CARRIED.