



**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Knapek at 5:00 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

**ROLL CALL** Board Members present: Chairperson Cheryl Knapek, Vice Chair Vicki Violet (Zoom), Members Sue Dergantz, Eileen Rathbun, Marijo Hain, and Leslie Ganser. Absent: Jan Call Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

Member Dergantz made a MOTION to approve the January 12, 2022 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Hain.  
7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Subcommittee Reports.**

- **Multi-Family** – Chairperson Knapek tabled this item as Julia Judson from Anoka County will provide a report at the March meeting.
- **Organics** – Bowman reported that there are 66 participants. She is updating the mailing list which also includes people who responded to the original survey but have not yet signed up. The signs and bag dispenser were put up last week. Bowman checks the site every morning on her way to work. So far, two tin cans have been the only contaminant she has seen. The site looks fairly clean and she has had no comment from Ace. Bowman will continue to boost promotion. Member Dergantz offered to post on her personal social media. Bowman suggested that members share what the city has posted rather than create a separate post. Knapek asked about pickups and Bowman responded that it will be every Wednesday. At the start there were frozen locks and unplowed snow, but those issues have been cleared up. The surveillance sign is up. Dergantz noticed the container was moved. Bowman had set it to be most convenient for the hauler. Knapek asked how full it has been and Bowman responded that this morning it had already been picked up but on Tuesday it was about half full. Lots of pizza boxes were noticed.
- **City Managed Little Libraries** - Member Ganser did some research with other cities. Fridley invited the community to submit design plans while Eagan requires all be built exactly the same. Ganser found there were lots of different ways to approach. Bowman commented that if they all match you are establishing an identity. Ganser agrees, but also likes the idea of different designs to represent aspects of the city. Fridley had 3 free libraries while Eagan has 22.

Rathbun likes the idea of using recycled materials. Ganser said we need to establish boundaries like how much money we will spend, how many do we want, what we want them to look like. Ganser asked if it was okay for her to officially contact other cities for this project and Bowman confirmed. Members agreed they did not want to spend the money to have these branded by the Little Free Libraries, but rather have them be city managed free

libraries. Bowman said we could use a unique name and Dergantz suggested we have a naming contest. She also recalls the city invited kids to make birdhouses at the city with recycled materials and suggested we do something similar with the libraries.

Members discussed locations for libraries and Rathbun asked if there is a map of city owned properties and Knappek asked if there was a map of existing libraries. The libraries that are registered can be located on the Little Free Libraries map, but unregistered would not be included. There is a map of city owned properties which led to a discussion of placing these in city parks. Riverfront and Akin were suggested. Bowman said that if the board decides they would like to go that route, we would need to work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Bowman suggested we start with the larger parks and Ganser suggested we start with three.

Design discussions included modeling these after the Twin Cities Snoopy project where all the libraries would be built that same, but uniquely decorated. Violet suggested starting with nonprofits rather than businesses; Anoka Rotary, Women of Today, Lions, Anoka Halloween.

Bowman asked if we build or enlist the help of Anoka High School students. Ganser said there is a lot to think about. She doesn't trust everyone's building skills and would prefer one group build so they are similar and let the groups decorate. Violet agreed on having one entity build the libraries as you need quality materials. She has one at her house and they do take a beating. You do not want substandard construction. Dergantz asked if we provide plans and materials. Ganser would like to do a little more research and find out what has worked for other cities. Violet and Dergantz both would like to use recycled materials which could be available from the high school, the city, or local construction sites. Bowman said the Electric Department has wooden pallets and spools.

Knappek stated that someone should contact the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Bowman offered to do that. Knappek asked Dergantz and Ganser to bring back ideas for plans and blueprints. Ganser agreed and said she would contact Anoka High School. Bowman will check with the city for materials. Violet suggested we start with 3 or 4 so that it is easy to maintain. She also likes the idea of a contest for the name of these libraries. Bowman suggested everyone come up with a few names for the March meeting and if we still don't have a good one, we could discuss a naming contest.

**Review Mission Statement** – Knappek asked for comments on the mission statement included in packet. She noted that it was revised in 2018 so it is not that old. There was a discussion to add “and organics” to the specific duties. Members agreed so that the group is not operating outside of its mission statement. Rathbun commented that you could make about three sentences out of that. Bowman suggested listing the duties as bullet points. Members liked this and Bowman agreed to retype in this format and present at the March Meeting.

**Holiday Lights Collection Update** – Bowman reported that the collection has ended but she does not have a tonnage report yet. Knappek asked if there were as many as last year and Bowman responded there were definitely more than last year. Rathbun asked the run time of the holiday light recycling and Bowman responded November 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of January.

**Accomplishments and Goals** - Members reviewed these as presented in packet. Hain said looks good, nice job and members agreed.

**Anoka Winterfest** – Bowman said about 105 goodies bags which included little trinkets, arts start project and items from Rum River Art Center and Women of Today were distributed at the event. The cost was \$600 for the ArtStart reuse project, which she thought was a little expensive. Bowman said that is usually the cost when the groups come in and teach the project so Bowman was not too keen on that price. Members agreed and might recommend not doing that in the future.

Rathbun said that is a lot of art projects and maybe we don't need all of them. Ganser asked if we couldn't something ourselves with the recycled materials and Bowman agreed. Bowmen said overall the event was good and Dergantz said the activities looked like fun.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Score Report** - Bowman reported a significant discrepancy between the tonnage report from ACE and what Republic usually reported. Not clear if Republic under-reported or if there is something off in the way ACE calculated tonnage. Anoka County will work with both haulers to find out how they were calculating. Bowman hoped to have more information but is still waiting on that. Violet had observed over-stuffed recycling bins which makes her think Republic was under-reporting. Violet said the County should provide guidelines for the haulers and define the process. Bowman thinks the County may have provided that but that might not work when haulers are working with more than one city.

This brought up a billing issue. Bowman pointed out that after studying bids, Ace was selected and residential rates were set at \$4.75 (SF) and \$.00 (MF) for the next five years. Now it appears we are taking in more money than Ace is charging us. The County cannot reimburse us since we took in more money. The first half of the year we got money back but July through December is when ACE started. For residential customers, we have to decide our best option. Do we lower the rate? Violet asked what the abatement amount would be for residents. Knappek pointed out that it costs money to issue rebates. Violet doesn't like the negative publicity that could come from this. Bowman will review the contract with the city attorney and see what we are required to do if we are not getting reimbursement. Bowman will report back in March.

**City-wide Garage Sale** – Bowman shared a Garage Sale Host guide from the City of Fridley. She also spoke with Will Rottler, the Communications Manager from Columbia Heights. They post garage sales in social media but don't charge to register. The city refuse coordinator sends out recycling guides for leftover items. They keep it free and provide an address map which can be done through google maps or the city's GIS person. He gave this overview of their program but referred Bowman to Fridley. Fridley had more detail and also offer a trash to treasure day. Bowman is a little nervous about that option and would not want to take it on this year. Bloomington has a clean-up day that can get messy and Bowman doesn't want the city to get stuck with a lot of leftover materials. Bowman noted Fridley had a lot of safety information for people holding garage sales and that concerned her. Knappek feels people are experienced and know how to be careful.

Knappek noted that Roseville charged and had 50 participants while the cities that did not charge had double the number of participants. Knappek said we should be sure to pick a different weekend than surrounding communities and she found a site that lists all city-wide garage sales. Members thought earlier in the year would be best. June is getting too late in the summer. Looking at the calendar Bowman suggested Thursday to Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. She offered to look at calendars for other city events and deadlines for advertising. Bowman likes Fridley's information packet and suggests doing something similar. Bowman asked if we should provide signs. Knappek suggested this first year we keep it simple and let people provide their own signs. Violet agrees that we should see how it goes this year and decide if we want to provide signs next year.

Discussion on registering participants. Violet wants to avoid placing more work on Bowman. Violet suggested using something like Sign-Up Genius which is free for nonprofits and would keep a lot of work coming to Bowman. Bowman said we did a survey through the city's web site and results came directly to her. If Sign-Up Genius can help reduce some work, Bowman agreed it may be a good option. Violet suggests we see if other cities have used a program they would recommend.

Dergantz asked if the city-wide garage sale has to be approved. Bowman will ask internally with planning and zoning. Hain suggested we give a heads up to trucks that pick up donations so they can be in the neighborhood. Bowman will find out how other cities handle that.

**Eureka Recycling Tour** – Bowman has been in contact and they are open to working with us to schedule a tour. We can do it virtually and she is waiting to hear back from them.

**North Suburban Home Show** – Bowman reported that in the past we have had a booth at this event and she has been approached again. It now takes place at the Andover Community Center instead of the Anoka Armory. Members were ambivalent about hosting a booth there. After discussion Bowman agreed to contact the County and suggest it is more fitting for them because it is a multi-city event.

**RAW Newsletter** – Bowman reported there will be information on organics and Ace's general curbside information. Dergantz said it might be confusing because the Ace piece talks about trash and some of the items listed can go in organics or compost. Bowman will update that. Members wanted to focus on organics rather than plastics. Knappek suggested including a photo of our enclosure. The spring recycling event will be included. Rathbun asked if there was any word on the can recycling trailer. Bowman said no word yet but we can put in a teaser that a second one will be coming to the Anoka Aquatic Center. Members suggested including information on city-wide garage sale, little libraries (but we need a name), information on the bench we earned, Winterfest craft, holiday lights tonnage, and recycling tips. Bowman asked Dergantz to send her some tips. Book recycling was brought up and Bowman will talk to Nickie Jenks about this. Dergantz offered to help preparing the information; Bowman thanked her but said that was not necessary.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**2021 Meetings & Activities Schedule** – Bowman called attention to the Board Appreciation dinner which will be held at Green Haven on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Bowman will take the North Suburban Home Show off the calendar.

**Chairpersons Communication Board Meeting Notes** – Knappek will attend the managers meeting but will be gone March 9<sup>th</sup> and asked Violet to cover

**General Recycling Questions** – Bowman was asked if decks of cards were recyclable and they are not because of their waxing covering.

Rathbun said she often calls Ace with her recycling questions. She asked if the goal of a city recycling site should be on our agenda. Bowman said the city-wide garage sale and free libraries need to be addressed first. Bowman said we will start the discussion and planning of a city recycling site but it won't happen for a while.

Hain volunteered at the Rum River Art Center with plastic bag recycling. They had a group of volunteers helping and had both plastic and feed bags.

### **Items for March Agenda**

Dergantz is doing a presentation on recycling tips at the League of Women Voters  
Dergantz met with someone who wants to start a refillable store in Anoka

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. on a MOTION by Hain and SECONDED by Dergantz.