



**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2022**

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

**ROLL CALL** Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knapek, Members Eileen Rathbun, Sue Dergantz, Leslie Ganser, Marijo Hain (via Zoom) Absent: Vicki Violet, Jan Call

Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

Others Present: Julia Judson, Anoka County and Michelle Austin-Dehn

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

Rathbun made a MOTION to approve the MARCH 16, 2022 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Ganser. With no corrections, all in favor of approving minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Subcommittee Reports.**

- **Multi-Family** – Julia Judson with Anoka County provided an update. She has finished at the Queens Lane Apartments. After tracking for eight weeks, Julia reported that 1,002 pounds of material were collected and reduced from trash. Her next projects are Walker on the River and the Green Avenue Apartments. Julia reported she is also working with Pam Bowman on scheduling a bulky item collection, either with Republic or Green Lights recycling.
- **Organics** – Bowman provided an update. She has slowly added 68 to 70 participants. Through phone calls, she knows that many people are participating through Anoka County. Bowman visits the site each day on her way to work and so far the only contamination has been a large Christmas tree in a box. The bags are disappearing fast and over 700 have been used. Bowman will be ordering more. There have not been any service issues with Ace and there was a slight increase in March. Bowman cautioned everyone to be aware that the construction vehicles are there for the Hwy 10 project. Dergantz commented that more people are recycling organics than are signed up. Knapek pointed out that one of the benefits of signing up is getting email notices and updates.
- **City Managed Little Libraries** – Bowman updated that AMU has offered to donate wood pallets and spools for construction of the little libraries. The Park Board requests starting with one library and would like it near the kindness rock garden. The little library at the Aquatic Center has been dealing with vandalism and inappropriate material left in it. Whoever takes care of the WRRB library will need to be checking it frequently. Bowman suggested we need to move forward and decide who will build, decide on a name, and decide if we will we add one per year. Ganser likes the idea of a group building their own but if it grows, there should be some uniformity. Ganser found a simple design she likes. She suggests we find a steward for the library to maintain it and make sure it is stocked. Suggestions included the fire department, boy scouts, girl scouts. Knapek asked if everyone was

in agreement that we should proceed with one library. Everyone agreed to first build it and then choose a name. Knappek offered that her husband will build the library. Ganser will supply the plan and let him know if there is any leeway. Knappek said he will use recycled material and maybe a recycled tin roof. Members should consider the following names to vote on after the library is built:

ARRC - Anoka Recycling Readers Club  
WRRB – We Really Read Books  
ABS – Anoka Book Share  
ABC – Anoka Book Club

**HOLIDAY LIGHTS COLLECTION** – Bowman reported that the total weight from November 2021 to January 2022 was .4205 tons. The total weight from November 2020 to January 2021 was .1925 tons (.228 more from our most recent collection).

**SCORE Funding** - Anoka County is working on a solution and will present it at the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We still do not know if we have funding.

**City-Wide Garage Sale** – It was determined that it is too soon to pull together a city-wide garage sale for this spring. Knappek and Violet will work on plans for next year. Knappek said at this point they are gathering information

**RAW Newsletter** – On hold until we hear about SCORE funding.

**Mission Statement** – On hold because it references SCORE funding.

**Spring Recycling Drop-off Event** – Bowman reported that logistical/vendor arrangements and advertising are completed. Diane Grinde and Jan Call have volunteered to help but Bowman could use more. Hain, Rathbun and Ganser volunteered. Dergantz will be recovering from surgery but would like to help if there is a position where she could be seated. Knappek pointed out a typo on the spring flyer (under appliances – “oven” not “over”). Rathbun suggested offering books at a concert night. Bowman reminded everyone that means more bodies and more work. Knappek suggested just one event, maybe the Spring into Summer event on June 21. Knappek offered to help set it up and man it.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Report to City Council** – Due to the uncertainty of SCORE funding, this has been moved to May 16<sup>th</sup>. Chair Knappek will attend.

**Useful Recycling Tips** – Dergantz shared recycling tips and a Tru Earth 14 Day Challenge. Sample products were also brought in and passed around for members. Dergantz was prompted to look at all the single use plastic in her own home and made efforts to get rid of that. She also shared what Tru Earth calls “vampire electricity”. Recommended that you unplug unused electronics. Little things can make a big difference. One of the examples given was that silicon baking sheets can replace parchment paper. She recommended BULKMN.com as they sell kitty litter and ice melt in bulk. Dergantz printed out several tips and distributed to members.

**Refillable Store** – At this time, guest Michelle Austin-Dehn was introduced as the owner of the new Refillable Store in Anoka. Austin-Dehn also brought in samples of her merchandise which included shampoos, conditioners, lotion, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid. She will have a pop up event on earth day and can be found at Rum River Arts Center for now. She gives 5% of sales to local nonprofits from her soaps and 2.5% on refillables. She currently shares this with Sustainable Farming, Hope for Youth, Rum River Arts and the Anoka Ambassadors. Is looking for one more to make five.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**2022 Meetings & Activities Schedule** – Bowman pointed out that the Spring into Summer event is June 21<sup>st</sup> and we will need volunteers at that event. We should also discuss if we want a booth at Riverfest. Bowman said that should be decided at the next meeting.

Discussion on Art-a-Thon at Rum River Art Center on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm. It is an outdoor event promoting walking, biking, and sustainability. Anoka Parks and Rec are sponsoring. If WRRB would like a booth it would be \$250. Bowman asked the board if they were interested. Chair Knapek responded that since we do not know yet if we have funding, we should consider having a free booth at some of the other events. Board members agreed and Chair Knapek asked if there was a consensus to pass on this event – everyone agreed.

### **General Recycling Questions**

Chair Knapek asked if members had seen Oral B's recycling program. They send out a label and shipping is free. Recycle floss, toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, etc.

Chair Knapek is also looking for a car seat to recycle. Members suggested checking Target as they have a recycling event that takes car seats. Also Anoka's Facebook connection has a market section called Anoka Buy Nothing.

Chair Knapek asked if the City of Anoka has an Adopt a Drain program for street drains. Bowman responded that is offered through the Anoka County Conservation District.

Rathbun asked what time volunteers are needed for the Saturday recycling event. Bowman responded that it is usually 7:30 am but she will send out emails.

Julia Judson offered that Smart Wool will recycle socks and they use them to fill dog beds. Chair Knapek said Darn Tuff also has a program.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. on a MOTION by Dergantz and SECONDED Rathbun .