



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2021**

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

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Vice Chair Vicki Violet, Members Jan Call, Sue Dergantz (Zoom), Eileen Rathbun, Marijo Hain (Zoom), and Leslie Ganser. Absent: Chairperson Cheryl Knappek. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Others Present: None.

OATH OF OFFICE. Leslie Ganser took the Oath of Office and officially became a member of the WRRB.

Member Ganser introduced herself, sharing her work and educational background, and her interest in the WRRB. She said she would like to help get recycling in city parks completed. Vice Chair Violet said that in past years there was so much contamination that the Parks Department had to remove the recycling carts. Ms. Bowman added that she is working with Anoka County and the City's Public Services Department to determine the best type of receptacles to use to help avoid contamination issues. Vice Chair Violet said it needs to be a collaborate effort between the WRRB, Park Board and the Parks & Recreation Department.

The members each introduced themselves to Ms. Ganser.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Member Rathbun made a MOTION to approve the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Member Call, all in favor, MOTION carried.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Member Call made a MOTION to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Member Rathbun, all in favor, MOTION carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Ms. Bowman reported that she mailed recycling information to a few multi-family properties that requested information, and that she hopes to prepare a mailing for all of the multi-family properties providing a list of available recycling resources.
- **Organics** – Ms. Bowman reported that 144 surveys were received. She said she met with Public Services staff at Harmony Gardens to talk about the potential for an enclosure and organics container at the site. She said a specific location was determined which will provide easy access to participants and the hauler. She also reported that Public Services has offered to pour a slab for an enclosure and that Anoka County is now making uniform enclosures for city organics drop off collections. Ms. Bowman reported the County has offered to pay for the cost of the enclosure so no SCORE or enhancement grant fund will be used. She said that grant funds will be used for the concrete slab/labor, signage, and promotion. She said she will work with ACE to discuss accessibility and

service costs and noted that there is \$3,947 available in enhancement funds to cover organics, which also needs to cover the costs of the Pumpkin Smash. She said she has ordered 150 kitchen starter kits from Anoka County (these are free) and that it will need to be determined the best way to distribute the kits a determine a tracking system once the program is up and running and publicized.

Member Ganser asked if there is concern with pests. Ms. Bowman said that in the research and discussions with Anoka County and other cities that have these collection, pests were no more bothersome than bees are to garbage and recycling.

Member Dergantz reminded the Board members that organics includes paper, chicken bones – anything plant or animal.

Member Dergantz made a MOTION to proceed with the organics collection program; Member Rathbun seconded, all were in favor, MOTION carried.

- **Plastics** – Ms. Bowman recommended holding the plastic bag collection only at City Hall (like the holiday lights), noting she would keep an eye on the collection, and ask for volunteers to help her maintain the collection from time to time to check the bags to make sure they are clean and dry, to help bundle them, and help with transportation. She said that Chair Knapik has offered to volunteer. She requested other volunteers.

Member Ganser and Member Rathbun acknowledged they would help.

Ms. Bowman suggested the collection be held from May-October (6 month collection) since the holiday lights collection begins November 1st. She said this would allow her to promote it in the summer City View and summer RAW newsletters (both out in June), as well as the other typical communication tools. Ms. Bowman said she will start the application after the Spring Recycling Event is completed and keep the members informed on the progress.

Ms. Bowman added that she has typed Member Rathbun's "April Cleaning" tips and will post it to social media.

Member Call made a MOTION to implement the plastics collection program; Member Rathbun seconded, all were in favor, MOTION carried.

ACE Solid Waste Transition Update. Ms. Bowman reported that ACE Solid Waste completed a smooth process in the cart and container distribution. She said ACE used the city building at 641 Jacob Lane for about a week and a half for cart assembly and distribution. Once the cart distribution to single-family and multi-family properties was complete, they worked west to east across the city to deliver the new recycling containers (dumpsters) to the larger multi-family properties and city facilities. She said both ACE and the city are receiving calls from both single-family homes and multi-family homes of those wishing to change the size and/or quantity of their cart/container. ACE is working through these and will complete them within 90 days, as indicated on their marketing piece that arrived with the carts. Ms. Bowman said the ACE contract became effective April 1, 2021 and she is very pleased at how the transition occurred and with the relationship being established with ACE.

Ms. Bowman said during its last service week, Republic Services hired Rehrig to follow the recycling truck on route to retrieve the recycling carts after Republic Services serviced each property. This process was more time consuming than distribution because they had to stack the carts, etc. They worked over a two-week period.

Member Call said she saw the work they were doing on her block and said it looked as though it was a long process.

Ms. Bowman added that during the process, several properties were missed. She said she and the Utilities Department received numerous calls and that Republic has been responsive at following up on cart removal that were missed by the subcontractor, by doing a couple sweeps of the city, the final one on April 8th. She said the calls were still coming in after April 8th.

Spring Recycling Drop-off Event. Ms. Bowman said the advertising for the event was complete and she utilized several communication tools including a paid advertisement in the Anoka Union/Shopper and an online banner on ABC Newspapers website. She provided a copy of the event flyer and the site map in the agenda packet. She said both will be posted on the city website.

She reminded members of the following:

- Books will be collected for the future Upcycle Event
- Alpine Ski Team is again collecting clothing and accessories
- Free paper shredding offered
- Accepting the typical materials
- ACE will replace Republic and provide roll-offs for scrap metal collection and cardboard collection. They will provide an employee for the cardboard collection.
- We will NOT collect carpet at the event.

Member Rathbun said she would attend and cover the books collection, Vice Chair Violet said she would cover the mattress collection, Member Call said she would direct traffic by the paper shredding and the others said they would help where needed.

Vice Chair Violet reminded the members that the Lions tent is for the Lions only. She said there was discussion among the Lions after last fall's event and they are requesting that city staff and WRRB members let the Lions manage their own space and stay out of the tent.

Ms. Bowman apologized and said she would plan accordingly this year and the WRRB members would not be assigned to help under the tent.

Member Hain suggested a table be set up in the pole building for city staff and WRRB members for their refreshments and materials.

Ms. Bowman said she liked that idea and would plan for a table in that building. Ms. Bowman said she will contact the Lions' organizer and discuss what type of refreshments they would like under their tent.

MN Green Corp Program Assistance Update. Ms. Bowman said there was nothing new to report for this, but expects more information in May or June.

Fix-It Clinic Update. Attached in the packet was information about the Anoka County Fix-It Clinics. Ms. Bowman said they are planning to hold the clinic outdoors in city parks in the participating cities and requiring reservations to help with social distancing. She said since Anoka hosts one in November, things may work for an indoor event by then. She said it would not be ideal with the weather to hold it outdoors in November.

NEW BUSINESS

Pumpkin Smash & Book Upcycle. Ms. Bowman proposed a new location for the event (George Enloe Park) and suggested switching the event from a weekend afternoon to an evening. She said this was a joint discussion with the Parks Department staff.

Member Dergantz said she has concerns with the George Enloe Park location, noting that construction on McKinley was up and coming and that rush hour traffic would coincide with the event hours.

Ms. Bowman thanked her for that and agreed. She then suggested keeping it a Rick Sorenson Park and moving the roll-off dumpster further west to be under the lights, should they have an evening event.

Discussion was held about the event date – having it on a weeknight, either Monday, Nov. 1 from 4-7, Thursday, Nov. 4 (same time) or Saturday, November 6 from 1-4 p.m.

Member Hain said that Saturday might be too long after and pumpkins may already be rotted, forcing people to dispose of them earlier. Ms. Bowman reminder members that the Fix-It Clinic (if it occurs) is scheduled from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Vice Chair Violet asked the members to think about what date and time might work best and come prepared to make a decision at the May meeting.

Tricia & The Toonies. Ms. Bowman said Tricia & The Toonies reached out to her to see if the WRRB is interested in hosting a performance this year. The cost is \$825 for a 45-minute environmental show.

Member Dergantz asked if there is value in this performance at that cost. Ms. Bowman replied that it depends on the venue and how many students are participating. She said last time it was in partnership with the Aquatic Center, and it did not work out well – only a handful of kids participated – they were distracted by the pool.

Member Call said it is much more successful when it is held at a school when there are hundreds of students. Members agreed.

Vice Chair Violet suggested holding off on this for 2021 and discussing it in 2022 when COVID restrictions may be loosened and a school might be an option. Members agreed.

Concerts in the Park – Recycling Booth. At Member Rathbun's suggestion, Ms. Bowman said she asked the Parks Department personnel if the WRRB could host a recycling booth at city Concerts in the Park events to provide recycling information, and that the answer was yes. Ms. Bowman provided the concert schedule in the packet and suggested members determine which dates they would like to attend and she will make the arrangements for a tent, table and chairs.

Member Ganser suggested something interactive would be good to provide. Vice Chair Violet said Anoka County offers games to play, which she has borrowed for Night to Unite in the past. Member Rathbun said both plastics and organics should be promoted.

Vice Chair Violet suggested members come back with proposed dates to the May meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairpersons Communication Board Meeting Notes. A link was provided to the March 4, 2021 Chairpersons Communication Board Meeting notes which were also emailed to the WRRB members at an earlier date.

Anoka County Recycling Guide. Ms. Bowman provided a sample of the Recycling Guide prepared by Anoka County Recycling & Resource Solutions which will be mailed to all county residents.

2021 Meetings & Activities Schedule. The updated schedule was attached for review and for information purposes.

General Recycling Questions. Member Call asked if the plastic bag collection would accept plastic wrap. After reviewing the information, the members agreed that was an acceptable item.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on a MOTION by Member Rathbun and SECONDED by Member Dergantz. All in favor; MOTION CARRIED.