

**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 12, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cheryl Knapek at 4:59 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Member Hain made a MOTION to approve the April 14, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Dergantz. Member Ganser noted that her last name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes. With this spelling correction all in favor of approving minutes, MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- ❖ **Multi-Family** – Bowman had nothing new to report but would like to re-activate this subcommittee in hopes of distributing recycling information to apartment buildings to help decrease contamination issues. Contamination issues have already risen after the switch to ACE Solid Waste. We need to get information into the hands of the tenants. Bowman asked who would like to serve on this subcommittee. Last time Members Hain, Call, and Diane Grinde (former member) served. Dergantz said she would be available for any meetings and discussing ideas. Member Hain said she would resume serving on the committee but suggested that ACE be contacted first to see if they have any ideas or suggestions. Chair Knapek asked if ACE had a staff person who focuses on multi-family issues. Bowman replied that she believes Anoka is one of the few cities that has multi-family properties contracted for recycling. One property that is removed from this program is Walker Plaza's senior building. They had concerns with the transition and their maintenance staff preferred to have one bill for both trash and recycling. ACE agreed to this so they will remain with Republic. Bowman will contact ACE for suggestions and bring for discussion at the next meeting.

- ❖ **ORGANICS** – Bowman received 150 free kitchen starter kits from Anoka County and the bags. Once Anoka County comes back with information on their standardized enclosure for the collection site, Bowman will review it with Public Services. Once the enclosure is figured out and installed, kit distribution can begin. Let's discuss ways in which to distribute the kits. Bowman does have phone numbers and emails for a majority of those that sent in a survey. Chair Knapek asked if Bowman knew when this could happen. Bowman replied she doesn't have a firm date but is hoping for July 1st. Dergantz asked if help was needed for pick up at City Hall. Bowman doesn't think so as they will set up a sign-up area in the Community Development entrance at city hall. They will collect name, address, and contact information. Residents will receive a kit and bags. This will be promoted in the RAW newsletter.

Dergantz asked if we could get more bags if needed. Bowman replied that we can and Dergantz suggested they also be available to pick up at the drop off site. Hain said the Anoka County site offers a roll at their site.

- ❖ **PLASTICS** - Bowman reported that she has signed up for the NexTrex program with Coon Rapids Recycling Center as our destination to offload the plastics. Bowman ordered boxes and posters from NexTrex and will also be ordering clear plastic bags to put all the collected plastics in. This will be promoted in our upcoming City View and RAW newsletters, as well as through our other communication tools. The program will run through October. If we need to add a collection location, we can discuss that as the program progresses. We should discuss a schedule with those that wish to help with this program. Bowman will monitor the amount of plastic bags coming in on a weekly basis and notify the volunteers when help is needed to check the bags and to transport.

Knapek said she would prefer a schedule so she can take off work. Rathbun said she cannot commit to any schedule at this time as she is anticipating a new grandchild. Ganser asked if there were specific hours and Bowman replied it would be when city hall is opened which is Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.

Dergantz asked if there is a list of what is acceptable for plastic bags. Bowman replied there is. Chair Knapek said she had some questions after reviewing the list; frozen vegetable bags, bags that contained cheese, do we need to remove the zipper on zip lock bags. Dergantz asked about bubble wrap and shipping envelopes and was told both are approved. Chair Knapek will make a list of her questions and send to Bowman. Bowman might get answers from Anoka County as they have other cities participating.

- ❖ **SPRING RECYCLING DROP-OFF EVENT** – Bowman provided the following report:
 - Electronics – 6.858 tons
 - Paper Shred – 4.26 tons
 - Scrap Metal – 2.43 tons (Ace donated proceeds to Havens for Heroes)
 - Cardboard - .67 tons
 - Tires - 494 total tires
 - Eye glasses – 87
 - Hearing aids – 2

Bowman is still waiting on numbers from appliances, lamps and batteries. Rathbun asked about books and Bowman replied that there were 700 books collected.

Bowman asked if members had any comments or suggestions. Chair Knapek liked having the clothing at the end as it made it less congested. Bowman replied that because of equipment at the site they had to set it up that way but she agreed that it worked out very well. Chair Knapek thought there was a better flow than last year. Hain commented that it really helped to have two people handling the mattresses. She also shared that former member Diane Grinde is willing to help at future events if we are ever short-handed. Hain also commented that the food set up worked out very well and having it separate kept people

from gathering. Bowman agreed but added that the Anoka Lions are making changes and might not be involved. She suggested the Anoka Rotary might be interested.

- ❖ **MN GREEN CORP PROGRAM ASSISTANCE UPDATE-** Bowman reported there is nothing new at this time but if we do get someone they will focus on multi-family and food scraps. Possibly in September.
- ❖ **ANOKA RIVERFEST & CRAFT FAIR** – This event is scheduled for July 10th from 9 am to 5 pm. Bowman asked if members were interested in hosting a recycling booth at the event. Bowman may not be available. Hain, Dergantz are also unavailable. Rathbun is not sure. Chair Knappek is available but would not want to host a booth alone. Bowman agreed as she has done it alone and it is hard. Rathbun suggested that we focus on summer concerts as many people who come to Riverfest are from out of town. After a brief discussion it was agreed to skip the booth at Riverfest and focus on summer concerts.
- ❖ **PUMPKIN SMASH & BOOK UPCYCLE** – Chair Knappek asked for an update. Bowman responded that there had been discussion on moving this but several reasons were brought up to indicate we should keep it at Rick Sorenson Park. Bowman suggested an evening. Several dates were discussed – November 1st, 4th, 6th or 7th. Hain suggested that with Halloween being on Sunday, Monday November 1st would be perfect. Hain asked if this would be in the evening. Bowman suggested 4 pm to 7pm and that it could be set up further west at the park to get a lot more light.

Chair Knappek asked if books would still be inside and Bowman confirmed. This will be the first time held on a Monday night and we will find out if this works or not. There are 1200 books remaining plus the 700 recently collected. City staff, Nickie Jenks, is holding a book upscale at George Green on July 11th. This will be a kick off to Halloween. Rathbun asked if parks would set up or would Bowman need help. Bowman said we would need help with setup but not monitoring.

- ❖ **CONCERTS IN THE PARK** – Bowman asked if members had any particular dates they would want to host a booth at the summer concerts. City can provide a table and chairs. Chair Knappek suggested a theme for each event. One time organics, another plastics, etc. Bowman offered that Anoka County has recycling games we can borrow for the booth. Dergantz asked how many concerts we should have a booth at. Bowman said it is up to the members. Hain asked if we would have to pick up everything or could the city set up. Bowman said she will work through those details. Hain said she could do Tuesday concerts except in July. Ganser offered to do Tuesdays in July. Bowman suggested if there are three themes, maybe we just cover three concerts. Hain asked if they are expected to stay the entire concert. Bowman said that is optional. Hain said she attends all the Tuesday concerts so she will host a recycling booth at all of them, except July. Chair Knappek asked what themes she would follow and Hain said she would prefer just to offer handouts and have the county's recycling games. Rathbun suggested that we have good recycling bins out at these concerts. Bowman said the county has been helping because everything gets contaminated. It is hard to find people to monitor the

recycling. Dergantz suggested using the microphone before the concert to make an announcement about recycling. Bowman will check if that is possible while other members said they were hesitant to use the microphone. Bowman said the booth could be set up next to Anoka Halloween. Dergantz suggested a sign up for organics for residents who have not signed up. Bowman suggested that if you have an organics theme booth that would be appropriate. Dergantz said she would do that on June 29th and will pick a date in August as well.

Bowman asked if anyone was interested in hosting a booth Sunday evenings at George Green Park. Rathbun would be but she is waiting to hear about her grandchild. Chair Knapek will check her calendar.

Tuesday evening concerts

June and August – Hain

June 29 - Dergantz

July 13 - Ganser

Sunday evening concerts

Knapek checking calendar

Bowman told members this is very flexible and if something comes up and they change their mind or don't feel good there is no pressure.

NEW BUSINESS

RAW NEWSLETTER - The topics for the summer edition of RAW will include, the plastics collection, an update on the status of the organics program, the general curbside guide, ACE information, the summer recycling event at Green Lights Recycling, three recycling tips, and the Waterfowl for Warriors fundraiser can collection. Dergantz said another tip is to use rhubarb leaves in your garden for mulch. Knapek asked when the newsletter comes out and Bowman said probably June but this information is also shared on social media.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Schedule – Bowman said a calendar was included in members' packets. Please add Riverfest on July 10th and the Pumpkin Smash on November 1st.
- B. General Recycling Questions – Hain asked if we will do Adopt a Park again. Bowman said we can if you want to but we found last time that the parks department was doing such a good job keeping up on the cleaning that we had little to do.

Chair Knapek asked if Republic picked up all the carts. Bowman reported that they said they did multiple sweeps of the city but Bowman received approximately 100 calls from residents. Republic is now going to charge \$30 per cart, starting May 1st. The transition from Republic (removal of carts and containers) was not as smooth as the transition to ACE (distribution of carts and containers). Chair Knapek asked if residents could drop their carts at 501 Pierce and have Republic do one stop to pick them up. Bowman said Republic suggested residents deliver them to Republic's location. ACE has been wonderful to work with.

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m. on a MOTION by Rathbun and SECONDED by Hain.