

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

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Cheryl 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 Members Sue Dergantz(Zoom), Eileen Rathbun (Zoom), Jan Call and Leslie Ganser (Zoom). Absent: Member Marijo Hain. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Others Present: None.

APPROVAL OF MAY 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

There being no changes to the May meeting minutes. Violet made a MOTION to approve the May 12, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Knapek. With no corrections all in favor of approving the minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- ❖ **Multi-Family** – Bowman contacted ACE as suggested by Member Hain to see if they had any ideas of how to enhance educational efforts with Multi-Family properties. She shared ACE reps the flyer that is included in the members’ packets, it is a general recycling information flyer that was sent out in the beginning of the new contract with ACE. It is also sent out in a welcome packet to new residents/tenants that contact utility billing to set up a new account. ACE reps had no other recommendations for the flyer, they had already commented on it and approved it when the program initially started. Bowman will print additional copies and send out on an as-need basis. Violet commented that none of her tenants get a welcome packet because their utility bills are built into the monthly rental rate. Bowman suggested that landlords would be responsible for relaying the information to the existing or new tenants, additional flyers can be printed and given to property owners to distribute to their tenants. She also asked the reps at ACE if they would be interested in presenting at a future Landlords and Managers meeting. Bowman said Republic Services had spoken at an LMA meeting in the past and it was beneficial. There are currently no meetings planned in the near future. The cities Crime Prevention Technician will inform Bowman of upcoming meetings that recycling information could be presented at. Knapek commented that it can be hard to keep up with multi-family housing because the turnover rate can be quick. Bowman said she has also placed ‘no plastic bag’ magnets on some recycling containers at multi-family properties.

- ❖ **ORGANICS** – Bowman spoke with staff about placing the organics collection in Harmony Gardens by the Anoka Northstar Station, the location will not work due to future redevelopment of the area. Planning and Zoning advised against it since it would be a waste to place a concrete slab and construct an enclosure when it may need to be removed in a couple of years. Bowman is also nervous about the Garden site because she could see people putting yard waste in them. Another potential location that was discussed was Garfield and

7th Ave, where the former MTC bus station was located. Bowman will be meeting next week with Public Services to go check out the site. It is a visible site, and good for marketing. Violet commented that she is excited about the new proposed location, it would be better advertisement. Bowman explained that Anoka County will pay up to \$15,000 to build an enclosure for the organics including materials and labor cost. Public Services can pour the concrete slab and put up the fence enclosure. An example of a standard enclosure is included with the agenda packet. Anoka County will provide all of the required signage. A database of the 145+ interested residents will be created for the kit distribution. Once the location is determined and the enclosure is built, the program will be announced and kit distribution will begin.

- ❖ **PLASTICS** – Bowman extended a thank you to Knapek, Dergantz, Rathbun, Call and Jim Call for all the help sorting and/or transporting bags. Another thank you to Dergantz for visiting Coon Rapids to ask questions and to Cheryl for designing the instructional posters for the collection. People are continuing to drop off bags, unfortunately someone dropped off potting soil bags, filled with hundreds of crinkly plastic sleeves that we are unable to recycle and will have to go into the trash. Bowman posted examples of items that cannot be accepted on Facebook. There has been 123 pounds of plastic bags collected so far. The board was unsure if black bags were acceptable, they are acceptable. To be accepted in the program, the bags must be “stretchy”.

Violet mentioned that she overheard people talking at Riverfest about the plastic bag collection but no one seemed to know where it is. So word is getting out but the exact location to take the bags is a question. Bowman commented that all of the information is posted on the website and on Facebook. She has noticed that people are commenting that it is hard to get to City Hall during business hours. Anoka County does post on Facebook with locations of various bag collection sites around the County, Bowman has reached out to the person in charge of the posts asking if they could add Anoka City Hall to one of the locations. The person has agreed to add us to the list, but has yet to do so. Bowman will reach out again.

Bowman has talked to the liquor store managers regarding all of the plastic wrap that comes from can shipments, the liquor stores will collect this plastic privately and coordinate with Bowman to get it to City Hall. There is currently a lot of bags, and the current volunteer group is not keeping up with sorting the bags. A schedule would help so that Bowman can reach out to all boards and commissions, and people can sign up for sorting times in the community room. The board discussed some possible days that would work weekly to reserve the community room and have a group work together to sort the bags. Every bag has to be physically gone through, because there has been some contamination with food, water, etc. It does take some time. Bowman will work with Public Services to get some dates reserved in the community room for sorting, and set up some sort of schedule with the boards and commissions for volunteer time.

- ❖ **SPRING RECYCLING EVENT TONNAGE REPORT** – Nothing new to report. Bowman will have the full tonnage information once the SCORE report is completed, which is due in August.

- ❖ **SUMMER RECYCLING EVENT-** The summer recycling event is on Saturday, July 24th, 9am to 12pm at Green Lights Recycling in Blaine. A coupon to recycle one appliance, electronic, or mattress/box spring is in the City View. No volunteers are needed.
- ❖ **MN GREEN CORP PROGRAM ASSISTANCE UPDATE-** Nothing new to report.
- ❖ **PUMPKIN SMASH & BOOK UPCYCLE** – The event is set for Monday, November 1st, 4-7pm. Volunteers will be needed beforehand to set up the books, and the day of. Volunteers can be determined at the October meeting.
- ❖ **CONCERTS IN THE PARK – RECYCLING BOOTH** – Bowman is suggesting that the board limit setting up the recycling booth this year to just the End of Summer Bash on Wednesday, August 25th, 6-8pm. The members are already doing a lot of extra work with the bag program, and the timing will be better for the organics program promotion. Knappek agreed the one event for a booth is a good idea since it is so busy now. Violet also likes the idea, people might be more interested to visit the booth if they haven't seen it before at a concert event. Two volunteers will be needed for the recycling booth at the End of Summer Bash, additional volunteers will be needed for the Ice Cream social. Bowman will be reaching out to other organizations for volunteers for the Ice Cream social as well. Pre-making the cones worked well last year, which can be done again this year. There will be compostable containers around the area, and the ice cream/root beer floats will be in compostable cups, with compostable spoons. Anoka County will assist in finding volunteers for to watch over the compostable goods.

NEW BUSINESS

2021 SCORE REPORT – The report is due on Friday, July 16th. Bowman is learning the new software package that is available to complete the report. It has been a challenge, and takes some time to learn. It will be easier to use once the software is familiarized, and will make reporting easier moving forward. The software will keep records of all submitted reports, and the user has the ability to go in and work on it periodically, and it will save all the work.

2022 SCORE FUNDING – The report is due on August 1st. Bowman expressed there is not much time to get this completed. She has provided the board with information of the funding from last year and is wondering if they want to follow the same funding plan. The 2021 Base Funding Allocation was provided in the agenda packet. The base funding amount was \$49,475, with an additional drop-off enhancement grant of \$15,000 that was used for the Green Lights recycling events. Bowman reported that not all of the base funding was used. More money is given if there isn't an organics program. The board talked about some of the funding listed on the report. Bowman explained that there is an additional \$20,000 that can be applied for, but it has to be an extension to improve another existing program. There being no additional comments or concerns regarding the SCORE funding. **A MOTION was made by Violet, seconded by Call to THE 2022 SCORE FUNDING IS REQUESTED AT THE SAME AMOUNT AS PREVIOUS YEAR. 6 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS

2021 Meetings & Activities Schedule

The meeting schedule is included with the agenda packet. The recycling booth was added to the End of Summer Bash on Wednesday, August 25th, 6-8pm.

General Recycling Questions

Violet asked what the recycling was like for Riverfest, and if the city will get credit for it.

Bowman replied that the city will get credit for the tonnage. She also had her 'recycling hat' on for a bit and looked in some of the receptacles and most were contaminated. They were picked up with contamination. The bins that were dropped off also weren't labeled clearly and the only indication was the gray cover for recycling vs. black cover for trash. The Chamber of Commerce should be notified of the occurrence, because all of the event coordinators are required to handle the recycling and work it out with the vendors. The Chamber is the main organizer of Riverfest, and the City of Anoka assists in various ways. Bowman said per special event licensing, organizers are required to have a recycling plan in place and provide tonnage to be reported to the City afterwards. Anoka Riverfest has a plan in place with ACE Solid Waste.

A lot of work goes into monitoring recycling containers, which also requires cleaning them out of contaminants. Knapek suggested getting more containers and making a "recycling center" for the Food Truck Festival in August. Something that screams recycling here, and stands out. It would also make monitoring easier if the containers were in one place, because then one or two people can stand there, instead of going to and from each area. Bowman said that the Food Truck Festival hires a service to handle and monitor the recycling and that Anoka County frowns on not having recycling containers near the trash containers. There are some resources within Anoka County to help with the monitoring at Riverfest, but Bowman said she would need to contact them and set it up, and was unable to do so this year. She said doing the compostable program in previous years at Riverfest was a lot of work. Bowman coordinated all of it from ordering of the supplies for each food vendor, delivered all materials to each vendor (paper boats, straws, utensils, cups, etc.) and solicited for volunteers to monitor the containers. She said vendors over ordered materials and some did not use the compostable materials causing patrons to put the wrong materials in the compostables and recycling, plus there was a large quantity of supplies leftover.

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