



**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2021**

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

**ROLL CALL** Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knappek, Vice-Chair Vickie Violet, Marijo Hain, Jan Call, Eileen Rathbun, , Susan Dergantz (via Zoom), and Leslie Ganser (via Zoom) Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST 11, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Hain made a request that the minutes include the title of Chair and Vice-Chair when recording attendance.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY HAIN, SECONDED BY RATHBUN TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES WITH THE ABOVE ADDITION. 7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Subcommittee Reports.**

- **Multi-Family** - Bowman has not yet ordered flyers but this might roll into the Green Corp Program. Further discussion when we get to that item.
- **Organics** –Bowman met with Public Services at the 7<sup>th</sup> & Garfield lot. Public Services agreed that this location is a good fit. Bowman also met with Anoka County and ACE reps at the site and all agreed this site is good and began to work out details. Public Services will let her know when they will be able to put up an enclosure which will have a small side entrance for residents and a large entrance for ACE at the front. Only the entrance for ACE will be locked. After enclosure is put up Anoka County has bag dispensers Bowman can purchase. Public Services is short-staffed so we might have to hire a contractor. There are funds available for that. We do not need a concrete slab but just the fence. It was reported that a few more residents sign up at the Summer Bash. Bowman was asked to check if residents signed up with Anoka County need to re-sign up with the City of Anoka.
- **Plastics** – Chair Knappek asked now that we have made our 500 pound goal, where do we go from here. Bowman agreed we need to discuss our next steps. The Parks Department has chosen a black bench to be placed by the new playground at Rudy Johnson Park. It is a small 48” bench and Bowman suggested the board spend \$300 to purchase a matching bench. While we have had great volunteers, the project has been very time consuming and there have been some complaints about the mess downstairs at City Hall. Another option has been presented by Anoka Rotary. They reached out to Bowman and said they may be interested in this program. A rep from the Rotary will come in and do a sort to see what is involved. If they take on this project, Bowman suggested that whatever we have to date can go to the Rotary for their project and take them forward for the next 6 months. They have plans to work with the schools and recruit student volunteers. Bowman said if the board wants to keep doing this program, they need to consider how many hours they have put in and if they can continue to make that commitment. Hain stated that she was only able to help a couple of times and does not foresee being able to increase her time commitment. Hain would be happy if the bags will still be recycled. Bowman cautioned that the Rotary has not yet committed. Chair Knappek expressed concern that if we stop and start again, we will confuse

people. She asked if we could store bags in the room across the hall from where they were sorting but Bowman stated that is the city's tornado shelter. Chair Knapek said it would be nice if the Rotary made a decision to take on the project so that it would not stop but be passed on to another organization.

**MOTION MADE BY VIOLET, SECONDED BY HAIN TO STOP COLLECTING PLASTIC BAGS AND PASS ON WHATEVER WE HAVE TO DATE TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.**

6 ayes – 1 nay Motion passed.

Dergantz asked if someone comes into City Hall with bags will someone be there to direct them to a new drop off site. Bowman said she doesn't want to put that on the front desk staff but will figure out another way to handle that. Chair Knapek said we will probably phase out of collecting and need to sort for a while. The newsletter should explain why we are stopping and remind them to keep recycling. Call suggested they could take bags to grocery stores and Kohls. She asked if Bowman needed volunteers to take bags to Cub. Bowman said she would appreciate that as you are only allowed a limited amount per day. Ganser and Violet offered to pick up bags to deliver to Cub. Bowman said she will let them know when she needs them.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY VIOLET SECONDED BY DERGANTZ TO USE \$300 OF OUR FUNDS TO PURCHASE ANOTHER BENCH. 7 ayes. Motion passed**

Bowman said she would like to put a plaque on the bench they earned. There was discussion on boards working together and teaming up to support the city.

- **SUMMER RECYCLING EVENT** - Green Lights recycling has changed hands so things may change next year. Bowman will continue to share updates.
- **MN Green Corp Assistant - Anoka County** will be getting a recycling assistant to work on multi-family projects. The focus will be more on food waste – to divert contamination and provide education on proper recycling and organics. They are expected to start mid-September and will have offices with Anoka County.
- **END OF SUMMER BASH** – Chair Knapek and Hain volunteered to host the recycling booth. They recruited three additional residents to the organics program. Anoka County provided five volunteers from the Master Recycler Program who set up and monitored the compost and recycling bins. Approximately 700 root beer floats were served.
- **2021 SCORE REPORT** – Bowman provided a tonnage report for January-June 2021. Also attached is a worksheet used to help calculate the curbside tonnages. Discussion followed about the difference between ACE and Republic figures with ACE's figures double and sometimes triple the amount. Chair Knapek said this confirms we picked the right contractor.
- **2022 SCORE FUNDING** – Bowman had nothing to report as she is waiting for approval and a contract to sign from Anoka County after submitting our score funding request of \$76,317.50.
- **FALL RECYCLING** – This will be held Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to noon. Bowman said Diane Grinde has volunteered and she is looking for additional. Violet confirmed the Anoka Lions will be there. Call and Hain volunteered to work with mattresses. Rathbun volunteered to work with books. She asked if they had to weigh the books and haul them across the driveway. Bowman said the crew working there will pick up the books

and we will count them since there probably will not be a scale at the event. There was a discussion on food service and COVID precautions. Some members felt food was unnecessary since we were done by noon while others thought it was a service that was appreciated. Everyone agreed having it in the garage was ideal and providing food for the vendors was not necessary. Chair Knapek said we have gone two years without feeding vendors and we should continue. The food should be for volunteers and city staff.

- **RAW NEWSLETTER** – Bowman is working on draft and topics will include; organics, plastic bag update, curbside information, pumpkin smash and book upcycle, holiday recycling tips, Christmas tree recycling and holiday light recycling.
- **PUMPKIN SMASH/BOOK UPCYCLE** – This is set for Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 4 to 7 pm at Rick Sorenson Park. We need volunteers. Chair Knapek and Hain volunteered. Bowman asked if we should hand out insulated bags left from last year or order something new. There are about 200 remaining. Chair Knapek suggested we use these up and do not order anything new. There will not be hot chocolate because we do not know what restrictions will be in place with COVID.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**CHAIRPERSONS COMMUNICATION BOARD MEETING** – Chair Knapek attended this and presented for the WRRB. She found it informative. Violet asked what the hot topic was and Chair Knapek and Bowman reported that information was shared by Doug Borglund on several developments in Anoka such as the big A which will be placed on the bridges, American Club, David Weekly Homes on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Bowman will get her notes on this meeting out by the end of the week.

**2021 MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE** – No changes except for bag sorting.

**GENERAL RECYCLING QUESTIONS** – Call brought in a carton insert which she brought to the Coon Rapids Recycling Center. She was told that could be recycled with cardboard. Other members did not think that was right. Call also asked about a deli container that had the recycling symbol on the bottom but not on the cover. Bowman commented that there are too many variables and when in doubt, throw it out.

Chair Knapek asked if we ever got the recycling trailer by the Anoka Aquatic Center. Bowman said not yet as Public Services is short-staffed but they are getting pricing and hope to get it soon.

Hain asked if there was any news on the Fix-it Clinic. Bowman said that is run by Anoka County and held in Anoka City Hall on the first Saturday of November. At this time they have not decided if it will be virtual or possibly by appointment only.

Chair Knapek asked about an update on park recycling. Bowman reported that Public Services is working to retro fit one of their trucks to collect cans. Once they complete that, they will know what type of cans to purchase.

Violet asked if the city would benefit from recycling at this weekend's Nearly Naked Ruck March. Bowman responded yes and members were happy to hear that.

**ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. on a MOTION by Violet and SECONDED Call.