

**CITY OF ANOKA  
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 15, 2021**

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

**ROLL CALL** Board Members present: Chairperson Cheryl Knapek, Members Eileen Rathbun, Jan Call, Marijo Hain and Leslie Ganser. Absent: Vice Chair Vicki Violet and Member Dergantz. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Others Present: Michelle Austin-Dehn Resident, and Julia Judson; MN Green Corps Member.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Rathbun made a MOTION to approve the SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Call. With no corrections, all in favor of approving minutes, MOTION CARRIED.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. SUBCOMMITTEE REORTS**

- ❖ **MULTI-FAMILY** – Julia Judson; a MN Green Corps Member helping various cities in Anoka County is in attendance to talk about what she will be doing with the program. She will be working with the county for one year September 2021-August 2022. Her goal is to improve multi-family housing recycling by 10-20% in each community. There are about 100-200 units in the City of Anoka. She will be improving recycling in these buildings through tenant education, signage, and outreach documents. Bowman has supplied Judson with some helpful outreach documents. Bowman brought up that in the past the board has sent out invitations to various multi-family properties to have some board members come out to the building(s) in a meeting setting, and talk to property managers and tenants, answer questions and give recycling information. There were only two buildings interested at that time. The members did go through receptacles during the meetings and pulled out contamination items for examples.

Hain brought up labels or signage for the receptacles to help with confusion. They have been used in the past, but at some point there's just too much signage and it's hard to look at. Bowman mentioned that some of the issue with contamination was the markings on the recycling bins that the residents had with Republic Services, people were getting confused. ACE's receptacles are easier to differentiate so hopefully that helps some. Judson mentioned that various cities in the county have been allowing stickers on garbage receptacles as well, which could help with contamination issues.

- ❖ **ORGANICS** – Bowman shared that a couple of representatives from Anoka County went to two farmers markets over the season, they set up a booth, and got some more residents interested in the organics program. There are more than 160 residents interested. Previously the agreement was that the County was going to pay for the materials and construction of the enclosure. The County has now come back and

wants the enclosure piece of the program to go through a grant process. The amount was also reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000. Bowman is having a hard time finding contractors to put the fence in this year before it freezes. It will sit on a paved surface so once the enclosure is up and the receptacle is in place the containers and outreach documents can be distributed to interested residents.

- ❖ **PLASTICS** – Knapek asked how the bags are looking in the lower level. Bowman said it is looking good and that delivery of the bags is slowing down. There are multiple signs in that area explaining where to bring them and that Anoka is no longer collecting the bags. Lynn Montgomery from Anoka Rotary has been trained on the sorting, everything will be given to them and the bag collections will continue within some elementary schools in the district, Franklin will be one of them. It will to be a competition between the schools to win the bench. The student council will lead the collection and encourage students to bring in their plastic. The City was able to give them 88lbs of bags to start with. Montgomery will stop at City Hall periodically for the residuals. Knapek asked if the second bench was ordered yet. It is not, Bowman is working with Public Services to place an order.

#### **B. FALL RECYCLING EVENT REPORT**

Big thank you to the Anoka Lions for their assistance. Over 300 vehicles came through. Approximately 400 books, 2.1 tons of paper, only 16 bikes, and 51 mattresses. Bowman mentioned that the fall recycling events are typically lighter than the spring ones. Call asked what the numbers were for spring the last couple of years, about 700 cars is typical in the spring. Bowman will either report final weights at the next meeting, or send an email.

#### **C. RAW NEWSLETTER**

The fall edition of RAW was mailed on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The final version is included with the packet.

#### **D. PUMPKIN SMASH / BOOK UPCYCLE**

The event is scheduled for Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-7pm at Rick Sorenson Park. Chair Knapek and Member Hain have volunteered. Still looking for some more volunteers to help with sorting the books at the warming house. Members Call, Rathbun, and Ganser noted that they can help sort. Bowman will figure out some dates and send it out. The roll-off dumpster needs to be ordered, ACE is having a hard time finding one due to short staffing. If needed, another vendor can be used to secure the roll-off.

#### **E. FIX-IT CLINIC**

Anoka county staff have cancelled the November and December Fix-It Clinics.

#### **F. ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING TRAILER**

The second trailer has been purchased. Public Services is working on converting it to a collection trailer. Bowman is not sure when it will be done, it depends on department workload. There is one person working on it, as time allows. The labor will be added to the purchase price of the trailer (~\$1800) for reporting. It will be located at the Aquatic Center.

Rathbun suggested putting the trailer that is already by Castle Field over by the organics location.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. 2022 RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

The 2022 Agreement was included in the packet. The awarded funds and requirements are indicated. The board needs to vote to approve it, and then it goes to City Council on November 1<sup>st</sup>. **Call made a MOTION to approve the 2022 Residential Recycling Program Agreement, Hain SECONDED. All in favor. Motion carried.**

### **B. BOY SCOUT TROOP PRESENTATION**

Chair Knapek and Bowman will be meeting with a Boy Scout Troop from St. Stephens on October 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be presenting to the group about municipal governments' role in recycling, recycling information, and answering questions.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. REMOTE MEETING POLICY**

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, City Council approved a remote meeting policy that applied to the City Council and all Boards and Commissions. The policy is included in the packet. It does apply to the boards and commissions, but was really made for Council. The policy ensures that everyone in attendance of a meeting is involved, and that people can hear and see everyone clearly. At least one member needs to be physically present. This applies to the open meeting law. All votes will be conducted by roll call so that it is stated on the record. A person can only attend a meeting remotely three times a year, and must be in person for the rest of the meetings. That person will also have to state the reason why they are attending remotely. The request must be made 48 hours prior to the meeting. Section 5 covering meetings during a pandemic.

### **B. 2021 MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES SCHEDULE**

Bowman asked the board their thoughts on cancelling the November and/or December meeting(s). Goals and accomplishments are typically done in November. The board decided to keep the November meeting, and decide at that meeting whether or not to cancel the December meeting.

### **C. GENERAL RECYCLING QUESTIONS**

Member Call asked where to take halogen bulbs. Halogen bulbs can be taken to Anoka County's Hazardous waste site. The MPCA waste hierarchy triangle was talked about and suggestions to include it in the next RAW newsletter.

Resident Austin-Dehn mentioned a program for free waste containers for events like home parties that the County has available for residents, she suggested putting it in the RAW newsletter for spring.

**ADJOURNMENT**- The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m. on a MOTION by Hain and SECONDED by Rathbun. All in favor MOTION CARRIED.