



Waste Reduction & Recycling Board

Wednesday, May 11, 2022
Anoka City Hall @ 5:00 p.m.
Worksession Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes
4. Old Business
 - a. Subcommittees Reports
 - o Multi-Family
 - o Organics
 - o City Managed Little Libraries
 - o City-Wide Garage Sale
 - b. SCORE Funding
 - c. RAW Newsletter
 - d. Mission Statement
 - e. Spring Recycling Drop off Event Report
5. New Business
 - a. Report to City Council
 - b. Soles4Souls Program
 - c. Spring into Summer Event
 - d. Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair
6. Communications
 - a. 2022 Meetings & Activities Schedule
 - b. General Recycling Questions
7. Adjournment



Memo

To: Waste Reduction & Recycling Board
From: Pam Bowman, Communications & Recycling Manager
Date: May 6, 2022
Re: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 Agenda

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting will be called to order at 5 p.m. in the Worksession Room, 2nd Floor of City Hall.
2. **Roll Call.** Roll Call will be taken.
3. **Approval of April 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes.** I recommend approval of the meeting minutes with any corrections and/or additions. **Action: Approval of minutes. (Attachment 1)**
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Subcommittee Reports.**
 - o **Multi-Family.** Julia Judson, MN Green Corp member, will be present to provide an update.
 - o **Organics:** I will provide an update.
 - o **City Managed Little Libraries.** The subcommittee will provide an update.
 - o **City-Wide Garage Sale.** A subcommittee should be formed.
 - b. **SCORE Funding.** A solution for the SCORE funding concern was announced at the SWAAT meeting on April 29th and I also met with Sue Doll of Anoka County on May 4th. Good news is we have our SCORE funding back for 2022, but we will not be reimbursed from July-Dec. 2021 since that report had already been processed and closed. I will provide more details at the meeting. We can now start moving forward with our programs.
 - c. **RAW Newsletter** – I will start preparing a summer edition and hopefully get it out in mid-to late June. Topics will include the summer recycling event at Recycle Technologies (we can now include a coupon), a push for organics participants, recycling tips and all of the general information. If you have an idea to include, please let me know.
 - d. **Mission Statement.** Members need to review the current Mission Statement and vote on any potential revisions. Action: Vote on any revisions. **(Attachment 2)**
 - e. **Spring Recycling Drop off Event Report.** Despite the heavy rain, 320 vehicles came through the event, which is about half of typical. I will provide an update on tonnage at the meeting. Thank you to Members Hain and Rathbun for volunteering to work the event. Additional city workers were hired and some city staff volunteered to help, too. With SCORE funding now available, I will start planning for the July 23rd event at Recycle Technologies and our fall event on September 24th.

5. **New Business.**

- a. **Report to City Council.** I am in the process of preparing the slideshow presentation and will have a copy for Chair Knapek at the meeting. She is presenting the report on May 16th.
- b. **Soles4Souls Program.** Member Rathbun learned of a new program, Soles4Souls. We will view their website <https://soles4souls.org/> at the meeting. They are also on Facebook. They “*turn unwanted shoes into opportunity, by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to good use - providing relief, creating jobs and empowering people to break the cycle of poverty.*” Let’s discuss opportunities.
- c. **Spring into Summer Event.** We need volunteers to help scoop ice cream and serve them at the event from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Volunteers should arrive 4:45 p.m. or as soon as possible once it begins. The event is on Tuesday, June 21st (the first day of summer). We will be using compostable cups and utensils. Julia Judson is working to find volunteers to help in this area, too, and to help monitor the trash, recycling, and compost bins.

With receiving only 96 youth books at the recycling event, our Parks Department personnel would prefer bringing them to use at the Little Free Library at the Aquatic Center instead of setting them out at Spring into Summer.

- d. **Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair.** If you wish to host a recycling booth at this event, the event runs from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The booth would be in City Hall Plaza in front of City Hall. If we have enough volunteers, it’s best to have 2 people in the booth at all times so breaks can be provided. Shifts can be established depending on number of volunteers. I won’t be available to staff the booth as I have other duties that day with the event. If a booth is hosted, I recommend canceling the July WRRB meeting that following Wednesday.

6. **Communications.**

- a. **2022 Meetings & Activities Schedule.** Attached is the draft 2022 schedule. We will review this and make adjustments as needed. **(Attachment 3)**
- b. **General Recycling Questions.** Oftentimes questions come up during the meetings unrelated to the agenda item being discussed. To keep the meeting on track, this item will now be included on each agenda so each of you has an opportunity to ask general recycling questions.

If you have a topic you wish to discuss at a future meeting, please let me know in advance and be ready to provide information on the topic at a future meeting. **REMINDER:** A topic may not be discussed if it is not on the agenda and the topic should relate to our mission/goals.

7. **Adjournment.** Let’s adjourn by 6:15 p.m.



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 13, 2022**

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, Members Eileen Rathbun, Sue Dergantz, Leslie Ganser, Marijo Hain (via Zoom) Absent: Vicki Violet, Jan Call

Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

Others Present: Julia Judson, Anoka County and Michelle Austin-Dehn

APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Rathbun made a MOTION to approve the MARCH 16, 2022 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Ganser. With no corrections, all in favor of approving minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Julia Judson with Anoka County provided an update. She has finished at the Queens Lane Apartments. After tracking for eight weeks, Julia reported that 1,002 pounds of material were collected and reduced from trash. Her next projects are Walker on the River and the Green Avenue Apartments. Julia reported she is also working with Pam Bowman on scheduling a bulky item collection, either with Republic or Green Lights recycling.
- **Organics** – Bowman provided an update. She has slowly added 68 to 70 participants. Through phone calls, she knows that many people are participating through Anoka County. Bowman visits the site each day on her way to work and so far the only contamination has been a large Christmas tree in a box. The bags are disappearing fast and over 700 have been used. Bowman will be ordering more. There have not been any service issues with Ace and there was a slight increase in March. Bowman cautioned everyone to be aware that the construction vehicles are there for the Hwy 10 project. Dergantz commented that more people are recycling organics than are signed up. Knappek pointed out that one of the benefits of signing up is getting email notices and updates.
- **City Managed Little Libraries** – Bowman updated that AMU has offered to donate wood pallets and spools for construction of the little libraries. The Park Board requests starting with one library and would like it near the kindness rock garden. The little library at the Aquatic Center has been dealing with vandalism and inappropriate material left in it. Whoever takes care of the WRRB library will need to be checking it frequently. Bowman suggested we need to move forward and decide who will build, decide on a name, and decide if we will we add one per year. Ganser likes the idea of a group building their own but if it grows, there should be some uniformity. Ganser found a simple design she likes. She suggests we find a steward for the library to maintain it and make sure it is stocked. Suggestions included the fire department, boy scouts, girl scouts. Knappek asked if everyone was

in agreement that we should proceed with one library. Everyone agreed to first build it and then choose a name. Knappek offered that her husband will build the library. Ganser will supply the plan and let him know if there is any leeway. Knappek said he will use recycled material and maybe a recycled tin roof. Members should consider the following names to vote on after the library is built:

ARRC - Anoka Recycling Readers Club
WRRB – We Really Read Books
ABS – Anoka Book Share
ABC – Anoka Book Club

HOLIDAY LIGHTS COLLECTION – Bowman reported that the total weight from November 2021 to January 2022 was .4205 tons. The total weight from November 2020 to January 2021 was .1925 tons (.228 more from our most recent collection).

SCORE Funding - Anoka County is working on a solution and will present it at the April 20th meeting. We still do not know if we have funding.

City-Wide Garage Sale – It was determined that it is too soon to pull together a city-wide garage sale for this spring. Knappek and Violet will work on plans for next year. Knappek said at this point they are gathering information

RAW Newsletter – On hold until we hear about SCORE funding.

Mission Statement – On hold because it references SCORE funding.

Spring Recycling Drop-off Event – Bowman reported that logistical/vendor arrangements and advertising are completed. Diane Grinde and Jan Call have volunteered to help but Bowman could use more. Hain, Rathbun and Ganser volunteered. Dergantz will be recovering from surgery but would like to help if there is a position where she could be seated. Knappek pointed out a typo on the spring flyer (under appliances – “oven” not “over”). Rathbun suggested offering books at a concert night. Bowman reminded everyone that means more bodies and more work. Knappek suggested just one event, maybe the Spring into Summer event on June 21. Knappek offered to help set it up and man it.

NEW BUSINESS

Report to City Council – Due to the uncertainty of SCORE funding, this has been moved to May 16th. Chair Knappek will attend.

Useful Recycling Tips – Dergantz shared recycling tips and a Tru Earth 14 Day Challenge. Sample products were also brought in and passed around for members. Dergantz was prompted to look at all the single use plastic in her own home and made efforts to get rid of that. She also shared what Tru Earth calls “vampire electricity”. Recommended that you unplug unused electronics. Little things can make a big difference. One of the examples given was that silicon baking sheets can replace parchment paper. She recommended BULKMN.com as they sell kitty litter and ice melt in bulk. Dergantz printed out several tips and distributed to members.

Refillable Store – At this time, guest Michelle Austin-Dehn was introduced as the owner of the new Refillable Store in Anoka. Austin-Dehn also brought in samples of her merchandise which included shampoos, conditioners, lotion, laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid. She will have a pop up event on earth day and can be found at Rum River Arts Center for now. She gives 5% of sales to local nonprofits from her soaps and 2.5% on refillables. She currently shares this with Sustainable Farming, Hope for Youth, Rum River Arts and the Anoka Ambassadors. Is looking for one more to make five.

COMMUNICATIONS

2022 Meetings & Activities Schedule – Bowman pointed out that the Spring into Summer event is June 21st and we will need volunteers at that event. We should also discuss if we want a booth at Riverfest. Bowman said that should be decided at the next meeting.

Discussion on Art a Thon at Rum River Art Center on June 3rd and 4th from 10 am to 4 pm. It is an outdoor event promoting walking, biking, and sustainability. Anoka Parks and Rec are sponsoring. If WRRB would like a booth it would be \$250. Bowman asked the board if they were interested. Chair Knappek responded that since we do not know yet if we have funding, we should consider having a free booth at some of the other events. Board members agreed and Chair Knappek asked if there was a consensus to pass on this event – everyone agreed.

General Recycling Questions

Chair Knappek asked if members had seen Oral B's recycling program. They send out a label and shipping is free. Recycle floss, toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, etc.

Chair Knappek is also looking for a car seat to recycle. Members suggested checking Target as they have a recycling event that takes car seats. Also Anoka's Facebook connection has a market section called Anoka Buy Nothing.

Chair Knappek asked if the City of Anoka has an Adopt a Drain program for street drains. Bowman responded that is offered through the Anoka County Conservation District.

Rathbun asked what time volunteers are needed for the Saturday recycling event. Bowman responded that it is usually 7:30 am but she will send out emails.

Julia Judson offered that Smart Wool will recycle socks and they use them to fill dog beds. Chair Knappek said Darn Tuff also has a program.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. on a MOTION by Dergantz and SECONDED Rathbun .



Waste Reduction & Recycling Board Mission Statement

The Waste Reduction & Recycling Board oversees the residential recycling and waste reduction program funded by the State SCORE (Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) funds.

The Board will serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council on residential recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

Specific duties include:

- Negotiating the residential curbside recycling contract.
- Development and implementation of marketing initiatives and special events.
- Assuring proper collection, handling, and disposal of recyclables.
- Development and enhancement of organics recycling program.
- ~~while~~ Providing education, promotions, and resources to improve recycling and reuse habits in the reduction of residential waste.

Revised in May 2018

Revised in March 2022



2022 WRRB Meetings & Activities Schedule

This document will change throughout the year. **Updates are in red.**

| MONTH | MEETING DATES/ITEMS | EVENT & ACTIVITIES DATES |
|------------------|--|--|
| JAN. 12 | Oath of Office / Election of Officers 2021 Accomplishments & 2022 Goals Annual review of mission, etc. Anoka Winterfest | |
| FEB. 9 | Subcommittee reports July-Dec 2021 SCORE Report Holiday lights collection Final accomplishments and goals RAW Newsletter North Suburban Home Show | Saturday, Feb. 5 – Winterfest 12-4 p.m. George Enloe Park |
| MARCH 9 | Updates & Subcommittee reports Spring Recycling, | Wed., March 2 - Chairpersons Comm. Board |
| APRIL 13 | Updates & Subcommittee reports | Sat., April 30 - Spring Recycling Event |
| MAY 11 | Updates & Subcommittee reports Anoka Riverfest (recycling booth) RAW Newsletter (June/July) | Mon., May 16 – Report to City Council |
| JUNE 8 | Updates & Subcommittee reports | Wed., June 1 - Chairpersons Communication Board Tues., June 21 – Spring into Summer (ice cream social) volunteers needed |
| JULY 13 | Updates & Subcommittee reports Events updates 2022 SCORE report/2023 SCORE funding Eureka Recycling Virtual Tour | Sat., July 9 – Anoka Riverfest (host a booth?) Sat., July 23 – Summer Recycling Event at Recycle Technologies in Blaine - no help is needed |
| AUGUST 10 | Updates & Subcommittee reports Fall Recycling Event RAW Newsletter (Oct/Nov) | |
| SEPT. 14 | Updates & Subcommittee reports Fall Recycling Day RAW Newsletter (Oct/Nov) SCORE Report Results | Wed., Sept. 7 – Chairpersons Comm. Board Sat., Sept. 24 - Fall Recycling Event |
| OCT. 12 | Updates & Subcommittee Reports 2023 Anoka County Recycling Agreement Pumpkin Smash/Book UpCycle | |
| NOV. 9 | Updates & Subcommittee Reports 2023 Goals & 2022 Accomplishments | Date TBD – Pumpkin Smash/Book Upcycle Nov. 5 – Fix-It Clinic?? |
| DEC. 14 | Updates & Subcommittee reports 2023 Goals & 2022 Accomplishments | Wed, Dec. 7 Chairpersons Communication Board |