



CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023

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

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knapek, Vice-Chair Vicki Violet (via phone), Jan Call, Marijo Hain, Sue Dergantz, Leslie Ganser and Eileen Rathbun. Photo of board members was taken in Council Chambers (Violet was missing from photo)

Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

Others Present: Michelle Austin-Dean, R Marketplace

OATH OF OFFICE

Bowman administered oath of office for Call, Dergantz, Ganser and Rathbun.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Rathbun, seconded by Ganser to re-elect Cheryl Knapek as Chairperson.

7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

A motion was made by Ganser to re-elect Vicki Violet as Vice-Chairperson

7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

MISSION STATEMENT, BYLAWS AND CITY CODE CHAPTER 70

Violet wanted confirmation that the City's Finance Director acts as treasurer. Bowman confirmed that Bowman does the reporting but the Finance Director oversees all financials. Members agreed to keep everything as is with no changes.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 9, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve was made by Ganser, seconded by Dergantz

7 ayes – 0 nays Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

Multi-Unit Program – Bowman provided update. The American Club is having move-ins on Monday and Bowman has been working with them to get recycling set up. She will be delivering some totes, posters, stickers and recycling information. Bowman will be reviewing the list from Julia and follow up. At some point, members will need to define more properties and plan how to connect with them.

Organics – Bowman reported that 139 participants are registered. Ace was not able to get access during the big snowfall and the bin was overflowing. This has been resolved and things are going well. Bowman has received lots of positive feedback. Call asked if there could be more signage on 7th Avenue. Bowman said that might not be possible because it is a county road but she will look into it.

Little Library – We Read & Reuse Books (WRRB) – The little library will be installed this spring. Dergantz asked who would be responsible for stocking the library. Knappek has a lot of books to donate to get it started. When people start to use it, they take a book and leave a book. Violet has a library at her house and she said it is sometimes necessary to purge and restock the library. She said children’s books are sought out and hard to keep in stock.

City-Wide Garage Sale - Dates are May 19 and 20. Bowman, Violet and Knappek met and discussed having a free reuse event the day after the garage sales. Violet has connected with the manager at the Anoka County Fairgrounds and she thinks we will be able to use one of their buildings for the reuse event. She just has to make sure the buildings are empty on that date. Garage sale people will be able to bring their items to the location and just leave it for county staff to set up. Anoka County has a program in place for setting this up and getting any leftovers to the Salvation Army. Bowman said Anoka County has offered to coordinate and host the reuse event. Bowman said she thinks this is best as they have done it before and have volunteers from estate sales, etc. Members agreed. Suggested hours for the garage sales will be 9 to 5, but participants can set their own hours. When they register with the city, they will be able to have a short description of items available. Signage will be provided by the City. Subcommittee members will set up another meeting. Violet is out of town 1/26 – 2/21 but can participate via zoom. Bowman will check schedules and reach out.

Soles4Souls – Rathbun spoke with Dawn at Peterson Shoes and they plan to continue the program indefinitely. They are pleased with results. Rathbun told her that if it gets overwhelming, she should reach out to Bowman to line up volunteers. Knappek questioned whether we are doing a disservice to our own community by donating shoes to Soles4Souls. She referred to a recent news story about a woman in retail who donated her shoes to a needy customer. Knappek noted that Soles4Souls does sell these shoes rather than give them away. Bowman said they do that to encourage entrepreneurs and help individuals build a business, which is another way to help someone less fortunate. Bowman does understand the concern about the shoes leaving the community and suggests that Petersons could still collect the shoes but they could be donated to Goodwill or Salvation Army. Bowman also said that Dawn at Petersons Shoes said that it takes her store manager about an hour a week to sort through the donations. She asked members if we should volunteer to assist or reimburse them with a portion of our grant funds. Members felt that since the store gets advertising and people into their stores, it would be best to volunteer to assist. Bowman will keep in touch and let members know if help is needed.

Aluminum Can Trailer – The new can trailer has been delivered to Better Value East Liquor Store. Funds raised from the recycling of cans will go to Waterfowl for Warriors. Violet asked how much money is raised and Bowman said it is a couple hundred dollars every time they empty the trailer by Castle Field. Violet asked if we should consider placing trailers at the new liquor stores. Bowman said since those are a couple of years out we might look at other locations such as Greenhaven or the Aquatic Center. Bowman said the cost of the trailer was \$3,000 and Violet thought it was a good investment since it pays for itself in 2.5 years.

Holiday Lights – Knappek stated that the holiday light collection ends this month. Bowman said it has been very successful and asked for a couple of volunteers to help bag up the lights after tonight’s meeting.

2022 Accomplishments & 2023 Goals – Bowman wanted to clarify and discuss any changes.

Accomplishments:

1. Grew the organics drop-off collection program to over 130 participants with no contamination issues
2. Conducted recycling outreach to 10 multi-unit buildings through the MN Green Corp member
3. Partnered with Peterson Shoes to collect 1107 pounds of shoes for reuse for the Soles4Souls program
4. Completed placement of an aluminum can collection trailer at the Better Values East store
5. Constructed a little library named We Read & Reuse Books (WRRB) for placement behind Anoka City Hall
6. Researched and coordinated details for 2023 citywide garage sale
7. Enhanced brand recognition with a new WRRB logo

A motion was made by Rathbun, 2nd by Call to move 2023 Goal #8 up to #4 on the list of accomplishments
7 ayes – 0 nays Motion carried

2023 Goals

1. Enhance community outreach through city events; Riverfest, Spring into Summer, concerts in the Park and Night to Unite
2. Increase reuse opportunities; citywide garage sale, used shoe drive, little library book collection, pumpkin smash, etc.
3. Reduce customer fees at spring and fall recycling events
4. Work with Park and Recreation to add aluminum can recycling at strategic places
5. Extend educational efforts for curbside recycling basics

There was a discussion on multi-family units and involving another Green Corp member. Members decided to drop this but will revisit goals at February meeting.

Fix-It Clinic Update – The fix-it clinic will be November 4th in the Community Room at city hall. This is the same day as the pumpkin smash but Anoka County will staff the fix-it clinic

2023 Recycling Events – Bowman said that the spring event is scheduled for April 29th and the fall event will be September 30th. A summer option might be to work with JR's Recycling in Inver Grove Heights. They offer curbside pickup for appliance recycling. We could subsidize the cost. JR's charges \$30 for the first appliance and \$10 for any additional. Bowman said we don't have to decide tonight but think about it. Knapek said the convenience to residents is very valuable and even if we don't subsidize it we could advertise it. Ganser said this can be added to our 2023 goals.

Bowman said we will need to finalize recycling prices in February if we want to subsidize any fees. There was a discussion on electronics and it was decided to just subsidize TVs and computer monitors. Cut cost in half so \$10, \$15 and \$30 for TVs depending on size. Leave the console and rear projections at full price. It was suggested to cut mattress and box spring cost in half. Crib mattresses \$5 and all others \$10. Bowman will bring flyer to February meeting with new prices.

NEW BUSINESS

Winterfest - This year we are partnering with Rum River Arts and saving \$600. They are providing a craft template to distribute and it includes a link to an instructional video. Ganser moved that we give \$200 to Rum River Arts, Hain 2nd
7 ayes – 0 nays Motion carried

April Meeting-Cablecast – Bowman said we need to decide what we want to feature at this meeting so she can book for April meeting. Discussions included Eureka Recycling and Ace. Michelle Austin-Dean or another re-use business could share their company information. Think about these and be ready to make a decision at the February meeting.

Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair – Violet and Bowman will meet with Pete Turok and report back.

COMMUNICATIONS

July-December 2022 SCORE Report – Bowman is working on this report. She is asking for \$49,000 in reimbursement but we might only qualify for \$43,000. The marketing report is done and she is working on the tonnage report. Full report will be share at February meeting.

2023 Meetings & Activities Schedule – The 2023 recycling calendars went out. The recycling dates are set and we might cancel a summer date if we decide to do the curb side recycling. A board appreciation dinner is scheduled for April 27th.

General Recycling Questions -

1. Spray bottle mechanism is not recyclable
2. Question on the shrink wrap that comes around many household items such as a large creamer. You can cut it off but can it then be recycled with plastic bags. If it stretches, then yes it can be recycled. If it is crinkly, then no it cannot be.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m. on a MOTION by Rathbun and SECONDED Hain.