



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 10, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chair Knappek at 5:01 p.m. in the Committee Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chair Cheryl Knappek, Vice-Chair Vicki Violet, Members Jan Call, Marijo Hain and Sue Dergantz.

Absent: Eileen Rathbun and Leslie Ganser

Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES - A motion was made by Call, seconded by Dergantz to approve the April 12, 2023 minutes as presented.

5 Ayes – 0 Nays Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Bowman recommended forming a subcommittee to help with the community outreach. She provided a list of four properties to visit in June and July. Members Hain and Dergantz volunteered to serve on this committee. Member Call said she is also available if she can ride with someone. Bowman is suggesting visiting two of these properties in June and two in July. The four apartment complexes proposed are Elmwood, Franklin Lane, Rainbow Plaza and Beverly Apartments. Bowman will start with these four but is open to other suggestions from board members.
- **Organics** – Bowman reported there are 168 participants and everything is running smoothly. Dergantz offered to stop by to check on bags and Bowman responded that although she checks it a few times a week, she will be out of town next week. She said it would be great if Dergantz could check and refill bags if needed.
- **Citywide Garage Sale** - Bowman distributed a print out of the interactive map she created showing all 76 participants and a list of items per property. Now that she has set this up it should be easier to do next year which may allow her to extend the deadline for signing up. One thing Bowman is concerned about is the re-use event. She has not heard back from Anoka County. They have asked the Anoka Lions to wash tables and are now looking for volunteers. It seems they have lost their experts that were going to handle the entire event. Chair Knappek said this event sounds like it is on hold, but looking for volunteers. Vice-Chair Violet appreciated the work Bowman did on this map and said it looks very good.
- **Soles4Souls Program** – Bowman reported that 8 large bags and 1 large box of shoes were collected at the spring event. They were not weighed before delivery to Peterson Shoes, therefore the weight from that event will be combined with Peterson Shoe collections. They did report that collections have slowed down but they want to continue.

- **We Read & Recycle Books Program** – Chair Knapek noticed the little library was not installed yet. Bowman said the Public Services crew has a heavy schedule right now but she will try to get a tentative date for installation.

Updates.

- **Spring Recycling Event Follow-Up** - Bowman thanked Chair Knapek and members Call, Dergantz, Hain and Rathbun for volunteering to help at the event. It was much appreciated. There were 322 vehicles and 2.13 tons of paper shredded. Vice-Chair Violet asked if 322 vehicles was down from other events. Bowman agreed and while there could be any number of reasons; weather, Hwy 10 project, etc., she thinks it may be that the area is saturated with recycling events. Also there is less need to drop off appliances since retailers will take the old one when delivering new appliances.
- **Summer Curbside Recycling Event** – The event is scheduled for Monday, July 24th. Bowman will start promoting in late May/early June.
- **Spring into Summer Event** – This event is June 21 from 5 pm to 8 pm. Bowman needs to know if board would like to host a booth at the event. Dergantz said she will check her calendar and if available she will work it. Chair Knapek said she has worked it before and feels one person can handle it.
- **Anoka Riverfest & Craft Fair** – Bowman is working with Pete Turok of the Chamber to finalize the letter to food vendors. Vice-Chair Violet and Bowman shared that Turok is concerned that this might be an overload of information. For this year, we are only providing clear stream containers for behind the vendor for vendor to recycle. Not extending to the public at this time. The flyer from the County has information on compostable products for vendors. This is very expensive for the vendors, especially since most of them are nonprofit organizations. However, this is the direction things are moving and the flyer just gives them information and the tools they will need if they want to go that way. Bowman is waiting to hear from Anoka County about providing volunteers from their Recycling Ambassadors.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recycling Center Discussion** – Bowman reported that the Public Services may be relocating their facility in the future and she had asked the City Manager to please keep the option of a recycling center in mind as they discuss this move. He agreed. Councilmember Skogquist is very interested in having a recycling center in Anoka. The City Manager has checked out Andover and how their recycling is set up. While this is a long-term project, Bowman wants to keep the discussion open. She will get a list of city properties for sale and research what other cities have required – square footage, traffic count, etc. Chair Knapek said while this project is on hold, we will keep it on the agenda for updates.
- **RAW Newsletter** – Bowman is working on the summer edition and wants it to get out early July because of the curbside pickup event. She has received some suggestions to include; dryer ball article, Ace APP, little library, organics, and an article on batteries. Chair Knapek suggested a photo and information on the new can trailer and the recycling at Akin Riverside Park. Call said keep the information on no plastic bags. Bowman asked members to let her know if they think of anything else to include.

- **Coat Donations** – Liz McFarland from Anoka Clothing Company is considering being a collection site for gently used or new coat donations, much like the shoe donation drive we are partnering on with Peterson Shoes. Liz has reached out to the Anoka Police Department and the Knights of Columbus to learn how they handled their collections and distribution. Chair Knappek has been very involved with the Knights of Columbus coat collection. She shared that there is less demand and resources for distributing the donated coats. They had over 200 coats and had to work hard to find places to distribute them. Chair Knappek suggested Liz might want to find a source for distribution first (maybe adult coats?) Bowman and Chair Knappek both agreed to talk to Liz McFarland and discuss the situation.
- **Concerts in the Park** – Board is undecided about having a booth at each of the summer concerts. Dergantz suggested we see how the first event goes and then decide if it is worth it. She will work at the June 21 concert. Bowman confirmed that quite a few vendors have signed up for the farmers market so it will be much better than last year.

COMMUNICATIONS

2023 Meetings & Activities Schedule. Bowman reviewed the draft schedule, pointing out that events in red are new. Bowman asked if board members would like to cancel the June or July meeting based upon other activities they are working on. After discussion it was agreed to skip the June meeting.

Night to Unite is on the calendar and board members needs to decide if they want to do anything. Dergantz attended the block event at George Enloe last summer and after noticing that everything went in the trash, she offered to get recycling containers for this year. Bowman said that is a great start. Vice-Chair Violet suggested taking photos. She also said that she brought up recycling at one Night to Unite and found that the recycling game went very well. After discussion board members agreed that the George Enloe location could act as a pilot program and will help us know what works and build on that for next year.

Chair Knappek will attend the Chairpersons meeting on June 7th.

General Recycling Questions

Dergantz asked about plastic mail bags that say they are recyclable but the inside is black. Bowman said that when they collected bags for the park bench, Amazon bags were accepted but each recycling center has its own specifics. Call offered that she has brought mailing bags and packages to the UPS store.

Call brought in a sample of a heavy type of paper that was used in packing and wondered if it was recyclable. Bowman said it would be and is similar to a brown paper bag. Call asked if items must still be larger than the size of your fist and Bowman confirmed.

Hain asked about clothing recycling. Chair Knappek shared that Coon Rapids has a textile recycling program.

Call asked if large envelopes/bags that mail order prescriptions come in can be recycled. Bowman said as long as they don't crinkle but stretch. Chair Knappek said the Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts them. Call said when she buys meat from the deli it comes in a zip type bag. If she cuts off the zipper and label can it be recycled? Bowman said yes and be sure to rinse it out.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on a MOTION by Hain and SECONDED Vice-Chair Violet.