



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 11, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. in the Committee Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL Board members present: Chairperson Vicki Violet (arrived at 5:30), Vice Chairperson Thurston (arrived at 5:10), Members Marijo Hain, Tim Aberwald and Jan Call. Absent: None. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Coordinator. Others present: Rich Hirstein, Republic Services. Resident, Jim Call. Member Hain conducted the meeting until the arrival of Chairperson Violet.

New Business was moved to the beginning of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS.

New Business – Republic Services Annual Report and Q & A.

As required per the residential curbside contract, a representative from Republic Services shall attend a meeting of the WRRB each spring to provide a report and answer any questions the board members may have. Rich Hirstein attended the meeting. Mr. Hirstein reported that the two drivers that handle the recycling collection in Anoka told him participation is high, containers are full and they have no concerns with the recycling.

Mr. Hirstein gave an overview of the recycling markets noting that he hasn't seen the markets this bad in a decade or more. He said the values of most of the materials are very low. He explained that when the economy is down, consumers are less likely to make large purchases such as electronics and appliances and this can upset the recycling markets. He was optimistic that things may improve after the 2016 election.

Mr. Hirstein assured the members that Republic Services has earned good relationships with its recycling vendors and has no concerns. He said there would be no changes in the collection of recyclable materials under the city's curbside program.

Members asked several questions regarding things such as egg cartons and glass, and also asked Mr. Hirstein about the future of organics recycling. He said there tends to be some food waste in recycling, but there is no money in the collection or organics right now. He explained Republic Services conducted a pilot project 2.5 years ago with 200 households in another city, but only 15-20 households participated.

Members thanked Mr. Hirstein for his annual update. He left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 13, 2016 MEETING MINUTES: A MOTION to approve the April 13, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Member Hain and SECOND by Member Call. All in favor, MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Recycling Event Report. Ms. Bowman provided some of the tonnage information she had received as of this date. She noted that the tonnages were in line with last spring. She said she would provide a full report at the June meeting, as she expects to have all of the information from the vendors by then. She asked if anyone had any other comments about the event or suggested changes for the fall event. Member Call noted that the portable restrooms were a great idea. Ms. Bowman said she will continue to order those for the annual events.

Internship Update. Ms. Bowman said the position was filled. Deanna Kelly will begin working the week of May 16 and work up to 16 hours a week and her first WRRB meeting will be on June 8. She will share her related background at that meeting and a report of what projects she is working on. Members were pleased to hear the good news.

Fix It Clinic Update. Vice Chairperson Thurston provided a brief update noting that she contacted both Coon Rapids and Andover to learn of more details. It was discussed between the members that October would be an ideal time to host a clinic and it could be held in the Community Room at Anoka City Hall. Ms. Bowman suggested Vice Chairperson Thurston contact Cindy at the City of Andover to learn if an evening date or a weekend date would be best based on past experience. Vice Chairperson Thurston said she would do that and report back in June.

Park Benches Update. Ms. Bowman provided some examples of the type of benches that could be purchased. She also described the type of message that would be inscribed onto the plaque that would be placed on each bench. After review and discussion, the members decided on purchasing two 6 foot evergreen colored park benches (surface mount) from “Kirby Built Quality Products”. Ms. Bowman added that the public services/park department would assist in any additional costs related to the installation.

Recycling Winner Update. Ms. Bowman thanked Chairperson Violet for gathering address for the first winner selection. The winner was the homeowner at 817 Oakwood Drive. A letter was mailed to the owner and the utility department was notified so they can apply the credit. Member Hain acknowledged she will select addresses on May 17 for the next winner.

Pick A Park Update – *This item was added to the agenda at the request of Ms. Bowman*

Ms. Bowman said she spoke with Lisa LaCasse in the parks department to help determine which parks would need the most help for litter clean up. She said that they determined John Ward Park and Grey Ghost Fields would be ideal because of the sports games that occur at each place during the summer. She added that Ms. LaCasse is in need of clean up along the highways (Hwy. 10 and Bunker Lake Blvd). Members agreed they did not feel safe enough to perform that work. Ms. Bowman suggested that for the August 10th WRRB meeting, the members do the pick a park clean up at John Ward and Grey Ghost Field and split the duties between both parks to cover them in one night. Members agreed. Member Call said she would like to help at John Ward Park because it is near her home. Ms. Bowman agreed and said details will be finalized at the July meeting.

Ms. Bowman added that Ms. LaCasse also said help was needed at Sorenson Park the day after the Anoka Halloween Grand Day Parade. Ms. Bowman asked members if they were interested in helping there as well. Member Call said she preferred focusing on two parks each year. Chairperson Violet said she would be unable to help because of other commitments tied to the Halloween festivities. Ms. Bowman said she would complete the application form to include just the two parks on August 10th.

COMMUNICATIONS

Anoka County Recycling Recognition Ceremony. Ms. Bowman shared the information about the upcoming recognition ceremony held at Anoka County each year. She said she would be attending.

Organics Article. Attached in the agenda packet was an informational article about organics recycling. Ms. Bowman said she believed Anoka County was working on some type of organics program for county residents. She said she would report back when she knew more.

Monthly Service Log & Tonnage Reports. Members reviewed the information. No comments.

2016 Meeting Schedule. Members reviewed the meeting schedule.

MISCELLANEOUS

Determine March Meeting Agenda. Members reviewed the draft agenda for the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. on a MOTION by Vice Chairperson Thurston and SECONDED by Member Aberwald. All in favor; MOTION CARRIED.