DRAFT

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017

City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Council Chambers

Minutes Taken by Meera Singh

**Members present**:

Ilana Bebchick, Joel Dashnaw, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones,

Michael Pappas, Anne Sherman, Meera Singh, Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis,

Mary Verhage.

**Members absent**:

David Frank, Debby Knight, Kristen Watkins.

**Staff**:

Deb Albenberg, Meryl Brott, John Fitzgerald, Michael Orr, Stefan Malner

**Members of the public present**:   Talia Fox, Renee Scott

**Housekeeping**

The minutes from the October 11, 2017 meeting were approved.

No public comment.

**City Updates**

Marketing Update

Mike showed members the updated, comprehensive, easy to use website app which includes instructions for *get rid of it right*, a calendar app with trash & recycling pickup schedules, street cleaning schedules, etc. Expected release date is January 2018.

Michael Pappas suggested having info about furniture re-use and recycling – guidelines under GROIR for what types of furniture can be recycled.

Mike Orr said they would need to think about how to develop a program to divert bulky material.

Quinten Steenhuis asked if they could list non-city collection centers for light bulbs, etc. (e.g. Tags).

Mike said we have info on collection centers for textiles on the website and maybe they could do the same for light bulbs.

Zero Waste Master Plan updates

HDR Consultants will complete their plan by the end of this week.

They are figuring out when the final presentation will be given to RAC and the public.

They will not be coming in November – maybe in December or January.

Staffing update

Mike introduced the new PT Waste Reduction Outreach Assistant Stefan Malner

Organics updates

Organics roll out is on track.

Contracts out with manufacturers

DPW will pick up all food scraps.

**Discussion Topics**

Casella Recycling & new Chinese scrutiny

Rob Gogan asked if Casella had been in touch with specifications for sorting recyclables following China’s new policy of rejecting bales of corrugated cardboard due to contamination (two rubber gloves were found in a bale).

Joel Dashnaw said Save That Stuff had been having conversations with their area haulers to remove contamination from recycling as much as possible due to the strict scrutiny by China. Casella has been rejecting contaminated loads and/or fining Save that Stuff. STS has been reaching out to their single stream customers to be careful about their recycling collection.

A problem STS is facing currently is that Casella does not want anything in the clear liner bags – and STS and its customers use these liner bags to transport their recyclables and keep their carts clean.

Casella has to employ more people to open and shake out the liner bags manually to get the recyclables on to the conveyor belt – also to check for any contaminants.

Customers will need to rinse/clean the recyclables more carefully as liners are no longer allowed in order to keep the carts and bins clean.

Rob Gogan said the no liner bag policy was a problem for HU custodians too, as it makes it difficult to haul recyclables in buildings that have no elevators.

Martha Henry asked what happens to the bales of corrugated cardboard that get rejected in China?

Fines are imposed.

Mike Orr said 65% of all recycling go to China.

Plastic goes to the Southeast US.

Cans go to Anheuser Busch.

**Sub-committee break out groups - reports**

Anne will send out a new invite for the google docs which the sub-committees will use.

Education sub-committee:

1. Plans for Nov 15 America Recycles Day

CPS librarians have a book display and recycling quiz binders for libraries. They’ll have school social media tweet on 11-15.

1. Meryl will check with Mike Orr if he is okay with our idea of custodial staff training and then set up a meeting time.
2. Reconsider timing of Go Green Challenge for 2018 as we will be busy with the Organics roll out in March and April.  Meryl will talk to some teachers to get their thoughts about whether to have the Go Green Challenge just in January or in February
3. Meryl will share the final recycling video with CPS principals.

Behavior Change sub-committee:

1. Immediate action: Christmas tree pickup – reach out to vendors to inform customers of the dates for curbside X’mas tree pickup.

Ilana asked if we could extend the deadline for X’mas tree collection. Mike said it was hard to coordinate due to unpredictable snowstorms.

1. Plan a zero waste day, perhaps coinciding with Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
2. Promote recycling at a local bookstore with a local author.

Michael Pappas asked about the organics outreach education roll out.

What will be the role and scope of the marketing company?

What will be the role and scope of RAC?

Mike Orr said they were working on this with the marketing company.

Analytics sub-committee:

1. Work on recommendations for the City Council including
* Reduced volume of trash for the city?

Need to determine size, equipment, etc.

1. How to charge for bulky items disposal.
2. Changes in building codes – meet with experts who know about zoning and building codes to help them with recommendations

Anne suggested a charrette be planned inviting community members, experts, others, to brainstorm on these topics – policy, zoning, building codes and to share solutions.

Announcements

* Reminder for Nov 9 RAC Social at Cambridge Common restaurant at 5:30 PM
* December RAC meeting not in City Hall – location TBD
* Rob said the Nov 4 Fixit Clinic in Allston was a success

Next one on Jan 23 in Boston, then in February in Brighton – encouraged all to make use of them!

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM