Members present: Catrina Damrell, Shirley Elliot, Debby Galef, Martha Henry, Sakiko Isomichi, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Scott MacGrath, Janet Mosley, Audrey Ng, Richard Nurse, Diane Roseman, Meera Singh, Mary Verhage

Members absent: Ilana Bebchick, Leah Beckett, Holden Cookson, Laura Nichols, Quinten Steenhuis

Staff Present: Mike Orr

Public present: Dailey Brannen, Helen Snively

- (Slow start: took a little bit to meet the quorum)
- New quorum: 9
  - Kristin is stepping down
  - Dailey from Harvard recycling and waste will be attending meetings
- September minutes approved
- Susy and Scott remain co-chairs, Debby Galef secretary
- Video for Rob to appreciate his work for RAC

1. City Updates
   - Textile recycling
     - Issues vary
       - “Dumping in developing countries” isn’t accurate. Situation is market oriented
         - Used as they are via Salvation Army, etc.
         - Recycled into padding and insulation
     - Reuse preferred
     - Value in collecting textiles?
       - 7% of our trash is textiles – huge value
       - That is why there are going to be options to do curbside and bin collections for free and then the company (most likely Helpsy) will cut a check for the city or other places that request to host a bin.
       - Will be important for RAC members to talk about our new program
         - Somerville uses Simple Recycling, but not enough residents know about it - they’ve now changed their model and appointments need to be made for curbside collection, any bags may be used
         - How to reach out to apartment residents
- Do outreach through property managers
- Apartments are the hardest nut to crack not only for textiles but also for compost, e-waste, etc.
- Send out postcards about new trash barrels as well as textiles and composting and try to reach as many people as possible
  - High schoolers' role can be big
    - "Glocal," "Stars," or other programs run by high school
    - Will be great to work students into the outreach
    - Tricky with thrift stores: they work with companies
      - If people want to donate, they should continue to do it. We don't want to put thrift stores out of business.
  - (Chat: The EPA has amazing data on municipal solid waste. The direct link doesn’t appear, but I just googled textile waste data US and it went right to a page on material-specific textile data.)
  - Helpsy: middle company that collects, categorizes collected textiles, and sends them to different places abroad
    - Beware of the term, "upcycle"
    - Critical: the collective effort
  - Communication methods: postcards, waste mailers
    - “Softer rollout” since it won’t be a “textile season”
    - Is Helpsy advertising appropriate or possible? – may be tricky for city
    - Advertising at the source, i.e. stores?
  - Will be available on the Zero waste app
    - Clothing is among most searched items: when someone searches, they'll learn about the textile collection program

3. Re-aligning sub-committee goals: Presentation presented by Susy; see here.
   - Take a step back: high level goals for the city and RAC (Susy’s slides)
     - Tools: education, outreach, policy recommendations, analytics
       - Think: what are we good at?
     - Goal: 80% reduction of waste by 2050 (2008 baseline)
     - Promote new culture around consumption
     - Support city programs
       - Food waste & yard waste
       - Recycle center
       - Textile recycling
       - Mattress recycling
       - Small business recycling/composting
       - Support recycling related bills
     - Last year
       - Analysis: survey
       - Food waste: monthly newsletter
       - Reuse
     - Rob’s parting thoughts on future RAC
       - New fixed-sized trash
- Single-use plastic ware
- A culture of reuse for durables
- Public messaging (food scraps instead of compost)
  - Brainstorm
    - Textile recycling
    - Communications, communications, communications
    - What happens to trash totes
    - Rodents
      - How does food waste connect to rodent issues?
    - New legislation, e.g. bottle bill
    - Covid-related best practices
    - Data collection
    - Neighborhood communication
  - September: highest tonnage for recycling, largest seen in the long time
  - Complicated to assess the current situation on food waste
  - Subcommittee structure reconsidered
    - Analytics
    - Food waste
    - Reuse – focus on textiles
    - Policy?
    - Communications?
  - Suggestions for 3 subcommittees (keep it 3 since there are fewer members)
    - Analytics, reuse, communications
    - Food waste; policy/communications, textiles/reuse

4. Public comment
   - Dailey would love to be part of a subcommittee

5. Action Items
   - Mike will work on the video for Rob
   - RAC members submit their videos to Mike in Google folder: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZu6zN7m16UqVg3Ocr3mVRaapymSWpYL?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dZu6zN7m16UqVg3Ocr3mVRaapymSWpYL?usp=sharing) by the end of the month
     - Send him an email if people can’t find it
   - Mike will look into whether Helpsy’s advertising possible
   - Susy will draft the survey for subcommittees/subcommittee chairs
   - Everyone will fill out the survey from Susy

6. Closing
   - Volunteer opportunities
     - Email Camilla if people are interested
   - Find replacement for Rob?
     - Need to publicly search for members, and the committee may increase
     - Is there a way to file for a special permit to include Dailey?