

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee

April 8, 2015 - Minutes Taken by Meera Singh

Members present: Keith Cialino, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosely, Meera Singh, Joanna Vanden, Mary Verhage

Members absent: Laura Nichols, Michael Orr

Staff present: Meryl Brott, Kelly Dunn, John Fitzgerald, Randi Mail

Guests: Carolyn Heaps & Elena Saporta (Green Cambridge), Helen Snively

Housekeeping: The March and January minutes were approved. No public comment.

Sub-Committee Reports

School Curriculum (DK, MS)

- Met with City Sprouts to explore ways to incorporate recycling and composting into their program.
- *Will create plan to submit to City Sprouts.*
- Goal is to incorporate waste management/recycling in curriculum – how do we do this?
- *DPW and CPS science curriculum department to meet.*

Materials & 5 Year Plan (RG, JM, SJ, MV, DG)

- *JM & KC will draft proposed 5 year timeline to reach goal of 16 lbs of trash per household per week by 2020 using PowerPoint Randi created in December.*
- *Staff will focus on furniture campaign in April/May and asked RAC to forward email widely. MA Coalition for the Homeless will schedule weekday pickups in Cambridge 5/18/15-6/5/15.*
- *SJ will update staff on model programs that feature weekly organics and every-other-week trash collections*

Outreach (KC, JV, MO, LN)

- Provided feedback to staff on spending FY15 outreach funds (by 6/30/15): A frames signs & possibly online ads for furniture campaign, order more existing program materials, request to Commissioner for short term stipend position to help with spring-fall outreach & volunteer coordination
- Generated ideas to explore for FY16: citywide mailing with program updates in fall, ads on Big Belly trash/recycling bins, incentives to outreach volunteers
- *KC will research how other communities spend recycling outreach funds.*
- *JV will review outreach ideas & resources at www.recyclecurbside.org.*
- *RG, SJ & KC will help with furniture outreach to graduate students at Harvard, MIT and UMass.*

Revisit RAC Action Items for April-Jun

Members reviewed high and medium priority items established last fall. Progress on nearly all.

- RAC letter to DPW Commissioner on paint stewardship bill will be revised and submitted for City Manager to send to MA legislature also referencing EPR bill SD 923. Waiting for hearing on introduced bill, official bill number.
- DPW Commissioner will attend May RAC meeting to discuss: Ordinance review & enforcement, 5 year plan for 16/lbs trash/HH/wk, and FY15 outreach funds for stipend position
- Business recycling compliance update. ISD will modify the Food License and Dumpster Permit (license) to ask: 1) Do you recycle?, 2) Indicate what you recycle: Cardboard, Paper, Containers, Food Scraps, Oil; 3) If yes, please identify how you recycling contractor(s) name. 4) Are you satisfied with your recycling contractor(s)? For inspections for the Sanitary Dumpster, Code Enforcement Sanitary and CE Housing the following field will be added: Evidence of Recycling? (Minimal, Extensive, None). Once data starts to come in, Tom Riordan of DPW will be assigned to spend time on business compliance.

Action Items: See *italicized* items in subcommittees above.

Announcements

- Meryl organizing kids only Casella tour on April 22.
- Volunteers needed for upcoming events: 4/18 Area IV Cleanup, 4/18 Get Growing Mini Festival, 4/25 Charles River Clean-up Day, 5/3 Neighborhood Block Party, 5/3 Spring Fling, 5/3 Mayfair, 5/13 Central Square Cleanup, 5/16 Bike Ride Gathering.
- Harvard will add bins in the Plaza area for organics and compostable food containers.
- City approved new full-time Zero Waste Manager position to help with organics launch & other zero waste programs

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.