



MEETING MINUTES

Recycling Ad-Hoc Committee

June 18, 2020

Attending: Elissa Brown, Judi Fenno, Darrick Dietrich, Sandy Shelin, and Barbara Clark
Absent: Ted Koehler
Council Rep: Steve Moss
Staff: Ki Bealey, Mori Struve, and Darci Bell
Guests: None
Public: None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Steve Moss.

WELCOME

Steve welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2020, MINUTES

The minutes were approved as presented.

REVIEW GOAL

There was discussion regarding what is not working, and what can we do locally. Education and outreach continue to be a common thread.

REVIEW ASSIGNMENT/DELIVERABLES

There was discussion regarding what recycling opportunities are available for larger commercial buildings and what is the current household participation. The group discussed conducting a citizen survey to obtain participation data to help us understand who is recycling, what part of town are they from and what are they recycling. Obtaining this information could be useful for working on the overall goal of reducing contamination. Our current grant with the Department of Ecology could provide a means for measurement and metrics. The research data that Mori obtained from Pioneer Recycling was shared, along with information from Miller Recycling Corporation which offers a breakdown of recycling and what can and cannot be recycled. Ki will send out links of this information to the members. There was discussion regarding plastics #3 through #7 and consensus from the group was to focus on plastics #1 and #2 or eliminate plastics all together when we first start out with a new program. It was stated that it is the responsibility of the producer of the plastics and not the consumer to make changes in packaging efforts. Keep it simple continues to be the mantra. We would need to document to the public why no plastics if this is rolled out. A suggestion was made to use a phased approach in our recycling efforts, with Phase 1 being no plastics will be recycled and then based on citizen performance or adherence, we could move on to the next phase and introduce other items. City staff will check with the Department of Ecology and Pioneer to ensure we are adhering to the intent of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Outreach and education efforts could include creating short videos to share best management practices. Also, sharing photos of what can be recycled vs. what cannot is preferred. We need to identify challenge points and then craft the message to address them.

QUESTIONS

There were some questions regarding recycling of the plastic window in envelopes and the status of cardboard. Information shared indicated that the plastic in envelopes is worth the recycling effort as it is incidental in the big scheme, and cardboard is treated as paper and tape on the cardboard is also okay to be processed. It was stated that we need to communicate with the public regarding items that Walla Walla Recycling accepts and does not accept and how that varies from what the City picks up.

CONFIRM DATE, LOCATION AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

It was decided that the next meeting would be July 2, 2020, at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.