



Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2018
7:30 - 9:00pm - Jefferson Cutter House

Attendees:

Members: Paul Goldberg, Larry Slotnick, Dori Mazor, Ellen Callaway, Priya Sankalia, Juli Brazile

Volunteers: Julie Benyo, Gary Phillips

1. Welcome and Introductions – We offered brief self-introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes – March 2018 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Before we began the broad-ranging discussion, we had a few quick updates or announcements.

- Charlotte is planning a welcome for new Recycling Center (RC) volunteers at the RC on April 14. Priya will ask Charlotte if she would like one of us to mention this on the Arlington list.
- The next Greenworks tour is April 26. Is Charlotte planning to announce to Arlington list? If not, we can post it.
- The Advocate for April 5 has a major cover story on the problems with contamination and the changing standards imposed by China on recycling centers.

3. What do we want to focus on over the next 6 months? – Paul reviewed the various activities we currently do or might propose to get a sense of who is most engaged by the different kinds of work. Julie likes talking and educating. Gary likes to set up for events and would be able to store some of our materials at his house. Juli likes publicity work and is managing our Facebook page right now. Dori and Priya are currently working our Textiles initiative. Ellen likes volunteering at the RC and Juli asked her if she could take more pictures of the fun for use on Facebook.

We expanded on some ideas around educating the public. Creating a Recycling 101 class is very appealing. We know Charlotte has been working on this as part of encouraging new RC volunteers. If we worked with Charlotte we might create a house party model or similar easy pop up for public places to make it more fun than reading Do/Don't handout. This appeals to Dori. Priya would love for us to expand to the point of having neighborhood "captains" that could tag good recycling for praise and offer tips to address bad recycling practices.

We didn't have anyone interested in working on Advocate articles at this meeting.

Paul pointed out that the Advocate article specifically mentioned Styrofoam, plastic and garbage so those could be our next campaigns. The article also mentioned textiles as a good category for reducing trash tonnage because most textiles that are in the trash can be recycled through drop off programs. Good thing we are working on that already!

Textiles Update – Priya and Dori have met with a designer who can make posters/signs with a clear logo and simple visual message. Working with the Water Department, they have

permission to put an insert in the next water bill. The Town only charged us \$300 for the printing.

Vote to approve spending requests – We approved \$1000 for design work on the Textile Campaign; \$500 for printing materials for the campaign; \$300 for printing the water bill inserts; and \$480 for R3 registrations. We want to be sure we capture all our expenses for the year so we know how much we have left. Juli indicated she had \$55.20 in expenses from EcoFest. Priya will look up the costs for the poster board she made for Town Day. Ellen's large recycling/trash display board was paid for out of RC funds. Paul would be willing to act as Treasurer to help keep track of our spending and budget.

Other campaigns – Juli pointed out that several ideas that have been pitched to ARC are about restaurants: reducing plastic straws, reusable pizza box program, reducing foam food containers. And one suggestion was made work with grocery stores to make it easy for people to purchase bulk items in re-usable containers they bring from home. We might generate some interest if we emailed the Google group to see who would like to help with any of these ideas. We have 111 now so we should think about how to make the most of those people.

4. Organizational changes – We discussed some ideas like rotating who facilitates meetings, but were concerned that could be confusing if different people draw up the agenda. However, we should encourage the people working on a project to take the lead during discussions of their project. Paul already said he would be Treasurer and he is planning to step down as planned from being co-chair. Larry would like to stay on for another year as co-chair, so we need a new person to co-chair with him. We will continue to take turns with minutes. Paul proposed an outreach coordinator to follow up with new people who sign up for our email list, but there was concern about months when we get 20 new people. We think that inviting all new email sign ups to a Recycling 101 class would be a casual way to get to know them and encourage them to get involved.

5. Miscellaneous Old Business – EcoFest was well-attended and we got 20 or so new names. R3 was really good again this year.

6. Wrap up and next steps – We all need to be thinking about how to spend our money before June. Continued discussion of the initiatives discussed: textiles; Recycling 101 class; decreasing recyclable contamination; restaurant campaign.

Submitted by: Juli Brazile