



Arlington Recycling Committee Minutes

Minutes for Arlington Recycling Committee Meeting

June 7, 7:30-9:00, Arlington Senior Center | Submitted by: Dori Peleg Mazor

Attendees

Members: Dori Mazor, Larry Slotnick, Paul Goldberg, Charlotte Milan, Priya Sankalia, Juli Brazile,
Associate Members/Visitors: Julie Benyo, Maris Newman, Rick Piazza and Gary Phillips.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves and shared which living person they would most like to have dinner with.

Approval of Minutes

Juli identified some inaccuracies with the May meeting minutes. The group unanimously approved the amended version.

China's National Sword policy: Impact on Arlington

The group discussed the possible local impact of China's "National Sword" policy, which will significantly reduce the amount of recyclable materials accepted by China. Until recently, China has been processing at least half of the world's exports of waste paper, metals and used plastic. China's withdrawal from the recyclables market will reduce the value of these materials, making it less profitable for haulers to collect them.

However, Charlotte explained that at least in the near term, Arlington and other communities will continue to be subject to state-wide regulations that require recycling. Our contract with our current hauler, JRM, will continue for four more years.

Co-chair Election

Larry volunteered to continue his role as co-chair for another term. Since Paul has stepped down from the co-chair role, Priya volunteered to serve as the new co-chair. The group unanimously approved Larry and Priya as co-chairs.

Feast of the East: June 16

Larry has procured a table in a similar location to last year. He will circulate a shift sign-up for ARC volunteers. He agreed to work with Charlotte and Juli on finding and organizing materials and giveaways.

Summer Pop-Up Events, Hospitality Tables

Juli reported that the hospitality tent at last month's recycling center collection day was not as successful as we had hoped. Because of the overwhelming crowds, ARC members were unable to have individual conversations with prospective volunteers. While a few new interested people signed up for our email list, overall the outreach would be more effective in a quieter venue.

Dori described the idea of having 3 mini outreach tables at well-attended events/venues this summer (e.g. Magnolia Park monthly concert). Pairs of volunteers would staff a small table with basic information (namely stickers, magnets, recycling guide). Charlotte agreed to create a small banner/display table for this. Dori, Priya, Paul, Juli and Charlotte expressed interest in the project.

Town Day

The group discussed possibilities for making Town Day more environmentally friendly (e.g. requiring vendors to use compostable containers) but concluded that, given the nature and staffing of the event, our energy would be better spent advocating for permanent town-wide waste reduction initiatives, such as a town-wide ban on polystyrene.

We talked about other bigger-picture initiatives, such as reducing paper use in schools, and promoting reuse through networks such as Everything is Free in Arlington (a Facebook Group).

Other

Charlotte reported that Arlington Public Schools have been awarded the "Green Ribbon" designation for sustainability efforts. This national award was given to only six school systems in the country. Students/staff have been invited to Washington to receive the award.

Paul and Charlotte agreed to create a Google spreadsheet to track expenses.

