

APPROVED MINUTES
Recycling Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2015, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Mary Siah Recreation Center, Art Room

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Karl Monetti - Chair, Jimmy Fox, Paul Knight, Karl Hough, Elliot Wilson, Ariane Staples

FNSB Staff: Jane Steeves, Secretary

Liaisons: Becca Brado, IAGS

Guests: Rodney Guritz, Arctic Data Services; Jeff Yarmon, Kalee Meurlott, interested parties

2. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

(Approval of Consent Agenda passes all routine items indicated by an asterisk (*) on the agenda.

Consent Agenda items are not considered separately unless so requested, in which case the item is returned to the general agenda. Said item will be discussed prior to public comment period, or under New Business, at discretion of Chair.)

A. *Approval of Agenda -

MOVED: Jimmy Fox

SECONDED: Karl Hough

DISCUSSION: None

PASSED: Unanimously

B. *Approval of minutes of 11/19/15 meeting.

Included in 2A above.

3. MESSAGES

A. Chairman's comments

500 grocery bags, 100 per box, have been received. 200 are available tonight for distribution.

Chair Monetti will hold the remainder for future needs and events.

B. Communications to the Recycling Commission:

Ariane Staples has joined the Recycling Commission as a Commissioner.

4. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

(Note: our policy is to encourage public comment. All items on the agenda will be open for public comment unless otherwise noted. If you would like to comment on any agenda items and cannot stay until such items come up for consideration during the meeting, you may comment at this time. You may also suggest a future agenda item to the Commission at this time. Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, with 30 minutes total time allotted.)

A. Agenda items

None

B. Items not on the agenda

None

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Items on agenda scheduled for public hearing

None

B. Items on agenda not scheduled for public hearing

I. Discuss and elect officers for 2015

MOTION: To close nominations with Karl Monetti remaining Chair and Jimmy Fox remaining Vice Chair.

MOVED: Karl Hough

SECONDED: Paul Knight

DISCUSSION: Jimmy Fox offered to step aside in lieu of another Commissioner taking over his position. Duties of the Vice Chair involve chairing Commission meetings when the Chair is not available.

PASSED: Unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS/PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Items on agenda scheduled for public hearing

I. None

B. Items on agenda not scheduled for public hearing

I. Discuss and act on proposals received in 4th Quarter of 2014

1. Arctic Data Services

Rodney Guritz presented a proposal to study the logistics and economics of recycling organic waste.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Organic waste makes up approximately 30% of the material going into the landfill. The overall plan is to present solid strategies to install composting in places that produce organics to compost in bulk – schools, commercial kitchens, etc. Recycling organics must be sustainable but not necessarily profitable. Find ways for the FNSB to facilitate the development of bulk composting organics and to provide baseline information for other entities looking to start bulk composting. There are not many studies available. The first step would be to contact composting entities to find out if a study was done prior to launch. Extensive cold climate Canadian research is available. The original Recycling Task Force studied composting; a possible source of information. Determine current Golden Heart Utilities activity with organic waste and what is Golden Heart Utilities willing and able to do in future. Karl Hough stated that without organics in the landfill methane will not be produced.

Jeff Harmon recycled 1.5 tons of organic material from the Winter Games. Composting takes one to two summers. Carbon must be added to support the chemical process. The inner temperature must reach 150-160 degrees. A year round location, possibly owned by the FNSB, is required as well as the equipment to turn the material properly. Regular testing of the source material is necessary to ensure the quality and marketability of the end product.

MOTION: To approve the project proposal and forward to the Mayor.

MOVED: Jimmy Fox

SECONDED: Paul Knight

COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Most of the cost of the study will be research, rather than material costs. Suggestions to amend proposal to add model(s) to, or subtract model(s) from, the 4 models in the proposal were discussed but not acted upon. The Mayor is expected to negotiate the price of the study during the contract talks.

PASSED: Unanimously. Elliot Wilson recused himself from voting due to his friendship with Rodney Guritz.

2. Interior Alaska Green Star (IAGS) Outreach

The thrust of the proposal is to move beyond the Recycling Guide, to compact the information onto the front/back of one sheet and have it delivered directly to every door by the USPS. 25,000 pieces are needed for direct mail and an additional 25,000 pieces for distribution to school children to take home and at community events. Many people are missed by the Fairbanks Daily News Miner distribution. Additionally, signage with recycling information is planned for the five largest transfer stations and the landfill, and an

advertising campaign to raise awareness of what recycling opportunities exist. All efforts will be of the form, "Did you know....", rather than punitive. People have to receive the message at least seven times to process and act on it. The full Guide will still be on the website.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION: The printed voluntary guidelines that were placed in the five largest transfer sites five years ago were quickly destroyed. The proposed signs will be wood or metal. Elliot Wilson suggested frequent digital recycling reminders. The combination of both the website and a handout is more effective. An insert could be included with the garbage bills. IAGS received a \$10,000 grant for Google advertising. The Commission would appreciate information about goals and the percentage increase of awareness per dollar. Jimmy Fox complimented the quality of the proposal, which bundles the whole effort together. Success will be demonstrated by collecting data and computerizing data on how retail customers and interested residents received the recycling information.

MOTION: To suspend the rules and continue the meeting after 7:30.

MOVED: Ariane Staples

SECONDED: Jimmy Fox

DISCUSSION: None

PASSED: Unanimously

MOTION: To approve the proposal as submitted

MOVED: Ariane Staples

SECONDED: Jimmy Fox

COMMISSION DISCUSSION: Elliot Wilson would like to maintain a thread of the common goal of a central recycling facility and ensure that the need for money to do so is mentioned on the website. Ariane Staples sees the handouts as promoting a domino effect towards the creation of a central facility. Jimmy Fox noted that by the end of May the engineering study will have provided a picture of what is possible. Is a central facility feasible? If the signage portion of this proposal is not approved, the Mayor would withhold that portion of the funds. If approved, plans need to be in place for updating the information.

PASSED: Unanimously

3. IAGS Bags

Becca Brado passed around a proposed IAGS bag, which will fit into a pocket, or purse. IAGS plans to target the foyers of the larger stores, do a survey and give bags to people who don't have one. The survey will be followed up in four weeks. The one advertising image will include multiple logos, including that of the Commission. If the program is successful, IAGS would submit an annual proposal to the Commission to fund the activity. Jimmy Fox suggested a QR computer code be included on the bag to bring up the recycling website on smart phones. Mary Fisher, ALPAR, is reaching out to Fred Meyer to reinstate the discount for customers bringing their own bag. Karl Hough would like to see a proposal submitted by a non-profit to collect plastic grocery bags for recycling. The IAGS bag has shorter handles than the Commission bag; easier for shorter people to manage. Recycling-related window clings for the driver's side door could serve as a friendly reminder.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as submitted.

MOVED: Jimmy Fox

SECONDED: Elliot Wilson

DISCUSSION: The Recycling Commission bags and the IAGS bags are different with each having positive characteristics. Example: IAGS proposed bags are made of 50% recycled

material. Commission bags are constructed from 100% recycled material. Ariane Staples reminded the Commission that IAGS will follow up on the bag distribution and supply data to the Commission. Jimmy Fox concurred and suggested a choice of bags be offered. Karl Hough would like to see one question address the possibility of a bag tax. Paul Knight is concerned about the large number of bags to be ordered – balanced by Jimmy Fox’s comment that the number of households in the FNSB is multiple times greater. IAGS will be working with local stores to implement a bag credit, to work on check-out stands for reusable bags and to develop ways to make it easier for checkers to use recycling bags. Concern was expressed regarding how to ensure prolonged use of the bags.

PASSED: 5-1, Paul Knight dissenting.

- II. Discuss and act on letter received from Eielson Air Force Base (EAFB) (See attached.) Paul Knight will attend the event. Ariane Staples and Elliot Wilson will attend a portion of the day. The February 2 workshop is the first of five planned.

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Karl Hough requested the bag tax be included in the agenda for the next Commission meeting. Becca Brado and Jimmy Fox met with staff at the Coop Market to discuss how to increase recycling awareness with partner, and non-partner, customers of the Market. The Market mission includes increasing awareness of sustainability. An agreement in principal for the Coop Market and the Recycling Commission to work together toward this goal was discussed. If sustainability space in the Market is designated, there will be space for offering recycling education; an opportunity to develop a cadre of early responders. Market shoppers will tend to stop and listen, where customers of other stores might not. A sustainability space decision by the Coop Market will be forthcoming in the near future. The Commission may receive a proposal from the Market to pursue the mutual interest in sustainability and recycling before the end of 2015.

Elliot Wilson thanked Karl Monetti for his service as Chair.

Ariane Staples stated that three Commissioners may attend the February meeting of the Fairbanks Recycling Task Force.

8. ADJOURN

MOVED: Karl Hough

SECONDED: Paul Knight

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVED: Unanimously