

APPROVED MINUTES

Recycling Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00

Noel Wien Public Library, Conference Room

NOTE: The meeting was moved to the Conference Room at the Noel Wien Public Library due to the closure of the Mary Siah building for major maintenance. The Recycling Commission thanks the library staff for their quick response and support in providing space and media.

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners: Jimmy Fox, Chairman; Brett Parks; Ariane Staples; Paul Knight

FNSB Staff: Jane Steeves, Secretary

Liaisons: John Davies, FNSB Assembly

Guests: Ken Simington, Alaska Waste; Deb Hickok, Explore Fairbanks; Kalee Meurlott, substituting for Becca Brado, Green Star of Interior Alaska; Scott Allison, Project Fairbanks

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: Brett Parks

SECONDED: Paul Knight

DISCUSSION: None

PASSED: Unanimously

B. *Approval of minutes of 05/13/2015 meeting.

MOVED: Ariane Staples

SECONDED: Brett Parks

DISCUSSION: The Secretary thanks Ariane Staples for the following corrections to the minutes –

I. The spelling of her first name.

II. Section B. i. "Eielson AFB staff is looking for partnerships to purchase de-icing fluid."

III. Section 7. "Ariane would like clarification of the sorting issues at the recycling collection

PASSED: Unanimously

3. MESSAGES

A. Chairman's comments:

Bob Jordan, FNSB Staff, provided a "Requirements to Hold a Recycling Commission Meeting" document in recognition of the reduced support role being played by FNSB staff. See attached. Concern was expressed regarding the discontinuance of the website. **Note to Karl Monetti:** Kindly include the website issue in the agenda for the next meeting. Brett Parks expressed concern regarding the legality of this meeting, given the necessary move to the Library.

B. Communications to the Recycling Commission:

John Davies provided an update on the status of the FNSB Assembly relative to the recycling plan. The final PDC Inc. Engineers report on the MACTEC update, dated June 12, 2015, is available from the Clerk's Office. Information regarding cost to market and revenue has been added. See Table 10, Page 31, which was added to the report subsequent to the presentation to the Recycling Commission. The report compares the cost of the FNSB running a central facility operation vs. a non-profit running it. All options cost less than the tipping fee and most options have a positive

revenue stream. The more the volume increases, the more the cost will be reduced. The use of volunteers, particularly at the transfer sites, would reduce cost if professionally managed. Government entities and national companies already have recycling mandates in place which will contribute materially to an increase in the stream of recyclables. Recycling is clearly cheaper than to bury the materials in the landfill. Source separation, whilst not popular or necessary in the Lower 48 due to the close proximity to recyclable markets, will provide the highest value for Fairbanks from the market. The report assumes transportation through ALPAR. The cost of a central facility is not included in these figures.

The next step is to issue a Request for Interest (RFI). The RFI would request a business plan outline, rough financial guesstimates, specific recyclables to be considered, delineate a possible deal with ALPAR, etc. Applicants would receive a common sheet of requirements. The best submission would be chosen and funded to support the creation of the business plan. A central facility is to be considered plus additional alternatives for the transfer sites. Funds for creation of the business plan would probably come from the Solid Waste and Land Fill Districts and probably not rely on funds allocated to the Recycling Commission. The ultimate management contract would probably be for 15 years with 5 year options and be similar to the Carlson Center contract, i.e., the FNSB would own the building and lease it to a management contractor.

The recommendations in the report are supported by FNSB staff, the Mayor and the Assembly. John Davies intends the process will be launched by fall 2015.

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

I. Report on Project Fairbanks mobile recycling trailer: Scott Allison, Guest

The trailer has been purchased, logos have been applied and recycling bins provided by the Legacy Project. A small generator provides power for an iPod and lighting. All are 100% paid for. The trailer was hit by a neighbor's car resulting in two out of three of the major summer events being missed while repairs were done. During the 2014 Summer Spectacular the trailer was packed full and emptied three times even though there was a low event turnout. Lots of aluminum cans and a great deal of cardboard was collected from the retailers.

A video has been created and shown to a variety of interested parties including the Chamber. The trailer is a great conversation piece. The objective is to keep the artwork fresh and moving out to businesses for display. There is a concerted effort to involve children in the activities and in the education opportunities. After the Summer Spectacular, the trailer will be parked at the Golden Heart Plaza to help support the markets until September. Project Fairbanks is partnering with the Tanana Valley Watershed to use the trailer and the bins. Project Fairbanks teamed with Green Star several times and the trailer was used for Noyes Slough Clean-Up Day. The trailer will be at Golden Days, the Midnight Sun Festival, and the Summer Spectacular.

Future plans include a method of tracking the number of those who visit the trailer. Perhaps, an interactive art piece where each person who visited could be recorded or, a survey monkey on site. Project Fairbanks is hoping to partner with groups such as Green Star, the Rescue Mission, and others using the trailer as a backdrop. A \$10,000 Wella (a beauty products company) grant to assist salons that get involved in the community has been applied for.

The ultimate Project Fairbanks goal is to change the recycling culture in downtown.

A. Items not on the agenda

Jane Steeves, resident, expressed concern that a purpose-built recycling center appears to have already been decided upon. She would like to review the research that was done to determine that no existing vacant building could be “recycled” and the cost analysis showing that it would be cheaper to purpose-build than to retrofit. Given the exceedingly lengthy permitting period and the construction challenges in Fairbanks, a purpose-built facility may not be the optimum choice to get central recycling up and running as soon as possible.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Items on agenda scheduled for public hearing

None

B. Items on agenda not scheduled for public hearing

None

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 upon Explore Fairbanks and Green Star of Interior Alaska’s Application for Special Recycling Projects “Arctic Winter Games Recycling Legacy Project – Phase II”, dated June 16, 2015

Deb Hickok, Explore Fairbanks, provided a brief history of the original request for funds for the purchase of high quality recycling bins for the 2014 Winter Games as well as the mission of creating a Legacy Recycling Project. 44 bins were purchased with funds from the Recycling Commission combined with funds from Kinross. 44 bins were purchased. Subsequently, Parks and Recreation received 18 bins; the FNSB Administration Building, 3 bins; the Big Dipper, 5 bins; the School District, 10 bins; Project Fairbanks, 4 bins; and Explore Fairbanks, 4 bins. One commercial entity purchased additional bins. A survey of bin recipients was conducted. A very positive response was received with the expressed need from six of the seven recipients for more bins.

The current request for funds is to continue the Legacy Project. Kinross will be considering a formal request in August to provide additional funding as well. Planned outreach to the private sector will concentrate on tourism businesses.

Explore Fairbanks and Green Star of Interior Alaska (GSIA) have a Memorandum of Agreement in place that spells out the administrative responsibilities. GSIA will process all monies and accounts payable and address educational needs and opportunities. Explore Fairbanks will facilitate the project including publicity, communicate with prospective users, order bins, and prepare reports. Bins will be identical to those previously purchased. The response to the existing bins has been 100% positive; the bins wintered well. There is no concern that the new bins cannot be placed. In fact, there still may not be enough to meet demand. Previous Cost: indoor bins - \$788 with discount; outdoor: bins - \$992 with discount. Current price and number of bins purchased, including shipping, depends upon the amount of funds provided.

MOTION: Approve as the proposal as submitted.

MOVED: Brett Parks

SECONDED: Paul Knight

DISCUSSION: Ariane Staples would like to see data on the amount that has been recycled using the bins, where the material is/will go and, how many weekly trips were made to a recycling facility. Deb Hickok will add those items to her survey of bin users.

AMENDMENT: to provide \$35,000. (The submission request stated a range, not a specific amount.)

MOVED: Brett Parks

SECONDED: Paul Knight

DISCUSSION: The purchase of additional bins is yet another move towards the ultimate goals of the Commission. Recycling information is provided with the bins. The bins are owned by the entity that uses them. In return for the bins, these entities agree to take the recyclables to the appropriate location(s). Good habits are being created, ongoing.

BOTH MOTIONS PASSED: Unanimously

- I. Discuss and act upon an area-wide recycling program appropriating Ordinance – John Davies
See above.

NOTE: The quorum was lost due to Paul Knight's having to leave to meet another commitment.

7. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

An August meeting is not currently scheduled, but could be if the need arises and a quorum is available. The Commission will reach out to Bob Jordan to find out how many hits the previous web page attracted. Is the website effective enough to merit a Commissioner taking on the responsibility for it, or hiring assistance? Commissioners will explore the possibility of using other premises besides the Mary Siah facility. The display media in the Library Conference Room was particularly helpful.

8. ADJOURN

MOVED: Brett Parks

SECONDED: Ariane Staples

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVED: Unanimously