

DRAFT
RECYCLING AD HOC COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING - AUGUST 10, 2021

8/10/2021 - Minutes

1. Declaration Of A Quorum And Call Meeting To Order

Chair Joanie Steinhaus declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Board Members Joanie Steinhaus, Susan Syler, Cody Wright, and David Fortenberry; Ex Officio Council Member William Schuster; Cindy DeWitt, Director of Administration and Sanitation; Scott Van Slyke, Recycling Coordinator; and Janelle Williams, City Secretary.

Absent: Dorothy Trevino, Dr. Jackie Cole, and Stephanie Vasut.

3. Public Comments (Limited To Three Minutes Each)

None.

4. Consider For Approval Minutes Of The July 13, 2021 Meeting

Susan Syler made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2021 meeting, with David Fortenberry seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

5. Continue Work On Draft Outline To Report To City Council.

DRAFT REPORT

Recycling Committee History

Committee was formed by Council to report on the effectiveness of the Recycling Center in anticipation of a new recycling center. Recycling best practices were changing due to market forces including the loss of the Chinese market for plastics. There was also a desire of residents to know the final disposition of the products for cost and effort efficiencies.

Additional concerns of the community about the recycling center were contamination rates causing diversion to landfill of recycled materials and certainty of final disposition of recycled materials leading to questions about effectiveness and efficiency of taxpayer funding.

Measurement tool- Cody July 27th

Measurement tool (develop)to track how the center is functioning, efficiency, budget, less waste to landfill, final disposition, citizen input. This tool would be used to draft report and explain the worth of the recycling center.

General Recommendation to Council:

- **City Council requests and responds (if necessary) to status reports created four times per year on the recycling center; efficiency, market trends and best practices.**
- **Sta? will continue to enhance their existing measurement tool to track how the center is**

functioning within shifting markets as well as recycling in Galveston.

- Continue to develop an extensive education program to reach more citizens and commercial- businesses on existing opportunities to recycle and a coordinated education program including recycling and total trash reduction.
- Periodically explore curbside recycling (City of Galveston or third-party vendors) and continue opportunities for off-site locations for “pop-up” recycling twice per month on the east and west end of the island.
- Consider re-establishing the sanitation department’s programs to charge rates based on size of trash receptacles.
- Create an email opt-in for residents to receive distribution of email blasts on recycling events and recycling updates; information could be available on water bills, Next Door, Facebook and other social media sites.
- Develop an overall community commitment working towards zero-waste (add papers, references)
- Explore developing a program to encourage local business/commercial recycling (non-residential)

Charge to Ad Hoc Committee: The City Council desires to establish an ad hoc committee in order to consider the City's role in an Island- Wide Recycling Program, to include market trends, best practices, and streamlining and efficiency as per the city council resolution;

Since the ad hoc committee was formed, city staff has begun to develop and implement many of the committee’s recommendations (see items with *).

1. How to effectively create an environment where residents and visitors have citywide access to recycling
 - a. Host pop-up events stationed on east and west side of the island*
 - b. Improve ease at the recycle center; signs, organization, beautification of center*
 - c. Pick up recycling materials at schools and residents over 65 or disabled*
 - d. Examine financial reality of the cost of city-wide curbside pick-up for recyclables
 - e. Work with the Galveston Park Board to add additional recycling stations on the beach
 - f. Partner with other organizations/businesses on the island that offer additional ways to recycle materials (paint, construction materials, tires, ink cartridges)
 - g. List locations where information on recycling and trash reduction is available on city website
2. How does the City effectively market and advertise its recycling facility?
 - a. Creation of tri-fold to be distributed in water bill, at short term rentals, hotels and other locations on the island*
 - b. Videos posted on City website and other city social media sites explaining components of the Recycle Center by City communication departments*
 - c. Regular email blast to residents*
 - d. Presentations to HOAs, clubs, and other venues on the island
 - e. Engaging other non-profits with similar missions to promote recycling
 - f. Targeted messaging to Galveston social media groups by communication and community outreach departments
 - g. Commitment of Recycle committee members to add their voices to promote recycling
3. What can the City do to make the facility more user friendly?
 - a. Ease of recycling at the recycle center; signs, organization, city staff assistance and safety of staff and patrons*
 - b. Beautification of center*
 - c. Upgraded efficiency at the center; staff guidance*
 - d. Recycling Coordinator and recycle staff working at the center; highlight staff members on a monthly basis, such as employee of the month*
 - e. Potential tours for community members of the recycle center
 - f. Outreach to schools and tours of the center for local students*
 - g. Street signage directing residents and visitors to the recycle center*

4. Understanding the facility will operate 5-6 days a week during daylight hours, are some days and times better
 - a. Committee feels days/times of operation for the center are best decided by the historic usage of the centers. Staff is tracking trends on times and days center is utilized and including this in the monthly report.
 - b. Committee recommends the center remains open at least one day on the weekend

Additional considerations:

A. Why are people not recycling?

- Access to reach the center
- Awareness of center
- Time constraints
- Lack of financial incentive or penalty
- Apathy to recycling

B. Long term goals:

- Continue to track put or pay at the transfer station as the City works toward a zero waste community to determine if the contract with the waste management company should be re-evaluated in regards to minimum tonnage requirement.
- Review and explore potential programs to address large amounts of yard waste going through the transfer station (composting, dune restoration, etc.)
- Address non-recycled materials. Potential City ordinance or resolution to eliminate Styrofoam in Island businesses.
- Explore City-wide options to reduce Construction site waste.
- Continue city-wide clean up event encouraging residents to bring materials to the recycle center (April)
- Continue Shred Days; 3-4 per year (June and November)
- Develop a volunteer and/or community service program to assist City staff with recycling events
- Improve Galveston Island's perception as an eco-destination
- Work for zero waste city-wide (references attached)

C. Information from city staff member: Susan

1. Update on city-wide plan for access to recycling- covered by Scott
2. Benchmarks- Cody
 - a. What needs to go in Scott's report
 - b. Tonnage, waste-diversion,
 - c. budget

6. Approve Sections Of Document Committee Worked On In July 13 Meeting.

(1) Susan Syler made a motion to approve the Recycling Committee History, with David Fortenberry seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

Recycling Committee History

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Additional concerns of the community about the recycling center were contamination rates causing diversion to landfill of recycled materials and certainty of final disposition of recycled materials leading to questions about effectiveness and efficiency of taxpayer funding.

(2) Susan Syler made a motion to approve the General Recommendations to Council, with Cody Wright seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

General Recommendation to Council:

- City Council requests and responds (if necessary) to status reports created four times per year on the recycling center; efficiency, market trends and best practices.
- Sta? will continue to enhance their existing measurement tool to track how the center is functioning within shifting markets as well as recycling in Galveston.
- Continue to develop an extensive education program to reach more citizens and commercial- businesses on existing opportunities to recycle and a coordinated education program including recycling and total trash reduction.
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- Develop an overall community commitment working towards zero-waste (add papers, references)
- Explore developing a program to encourage local business/commercial recycling (non-residential)

(3) Susan Syler made a motion to approve Charge to Ad Hoc Committee Items 1 -4, with Cody Wright seconding the motion. Unanimously approved.

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Recycle Center by City communication departments*

- c. **Regular email blast to residents***
 - d. **Presentations to HOAs, clubs, and other venues on the island**
 - e. **Engaging other non-profits with similar missions to promote recycling**
 - f. **Targeted messaging to Galveston social media groups by communication and community outreach departments**
 - g. **Commitment of Recycle committee members to add their voices to promote recycling**
- 3. What can the City do to make the facility more user friendly?**
- a. **Ease of recycling at the recycle center; signs, organization, city staff assistance and safety of staff and patrons***
 - b. **Beautification of center***
 - c. **Upgraded efficiency at the center; staff guidance***
 - d. **Recycling Coordinator and recycle staff working at the center; highlight staff members on a monthly basis, such as employee of the month***
 - e. **Potential tours for community members of the recycle center**
 - f. **Outreach to schools and tours of the center for local students***
 - g. **Street signage directing residents and visitors to the recycle center***
- 4. Understanding the facility will operate 5-6 days a week during daylight hours, are some days and times better**
- a. **Committee feels days/times of operation for the center are best decided by the historic usage of the centers. Staff is tracking trends on times and days center is utilized and including this in the monthly report.**
 - b. **Committee recommends the center remains open at least one day on the weekend**
7. **Draft Attachment To Report On City Staff Effort (Attached).**
8. **Measurement Tools (Draft Attached).**
9. **August 27th Is Last Meeting To Finalize Report.**
10. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.