

June 22, 2021 1 PM Recycling Committee Meeting
(in-person City Hall room 100 and Zoom)

Declaration of A Quorum and Call Meeting to Order at 1:01 PM

Roll Call; William Schuster, Dorothy Trevino, Susan Syler, Cody Wright, Joanie Steinhaus, David Fortenberry and Scott Van Slyke

Consider for Approval Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Meeting

Attached Documents:

Minutes June 8, 2021

Draft outline; **comments due**

back to Joanie by July 7th noon.

History- **Dr. Cole**

Issues:

Committee- formed to consider market trends in Recycling (Loss of Chinese market for plastics) best practices and streamlining efficiency in anticipation of new recycling center. \$500,00 a year in fees from water customers plus budget from Waste.

At time committee was formed recycling center had vendors with no final disposition reports, 20% contamination rates (material going to landfill at higher transport rates than transfer station) Question of effectiveness and efficiency of Taxpayers funding

Measurement tool- **Cody**

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.

Recommendation to Council:

- Ensure city recycling staff reports to the city council 2-3 times per year on the status of the center; efficiency, market trends and best practices
- The City Councils directs the city manager on any changes or recommendations to the recycle program
- Vendors provide final disposition reports so users have confidence in the report.
- Center is reducing waste going to landfill and providing a service
- Extensive education outreach needed - reaching more citizens and also Commercial-businesses. Coordinate education with waste reduction.
- Staff develop a measurement tool to track how the center is functioning within shifting markets as well as recycling in Galveston- how much is being recycled, diverted from landfill, etc.
- Future curb-side recycling for community (third party vendors, pop-up)

- Look at rates for different size trash cans (add sizes and costs)
- Create an email opt-in for residents to receive distribution of email blasts on recycling events and recycling updates (water bills, Next Door, Facebook and other social media sites)
- Overall community commitment working toward a zero-waste community (add papers, references)
- Develop and encourage commercial recycling

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

1. How to effectively create an environment where residents and visitors have citywide access to recycling
 - a. Pop-up events stationed on east and west side of the island
 - b. Ease at the recycle center; signs, organization, beautification of center
 - c. City staff pick up of recycling materials at schools and residents over 65 or disable
 - d. Financial reality of cost of city-wide curb-side pick up
 - e. Additional recycling stations on the beach
 - f. Partner with other organizations on the island that offer additional ways to recycle materials (paint, ???)
 - g. A list of locations where information is available on city website
 - h. Reduction of waste to the transfer center
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
 - c. Email blast to residents,
 - d. Presentations to HOAs, Clubs, Next Door and other venues on the island
 - e. Engage other non-profits with similar missions to promote recycling
 - f. Recycle committee members add their voice 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
 - b. Beautification of center
 - c. Upgraded efficiency at the center; staff guidance
 - d. Scott and recycle staff working at the center; highlight staff member on a monthly basis
 - e. Community members tour the recycle center
 - f. Outreach to schools and tours of the center for local students
4. Understanding the facility will operate 5-6 days a week during daylight hours, are some days and times better

Included in report;

- A. Information from city staff member on: **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
- B. Additional items to cover in report;
1. Why are people not recycling?
 - Access to reach the center
 - Awareness of center
 - Time constraints
 - No financial incentive or penalty
- C. Long term goals:
- a. Track put or pay- transfer station. Contracts with waste (BFI) cost per ton and minimum to meet with city contract. City still pays even if the amount of waste is reduced.
 - b. Biggest amount comes from yard waste- compost
 1. Galveston Island Tree Conservancy- speak with Priscilla Files-use leaves for mulch on city-wide projects and parks and mulching
 2. How to dispose of palm fronds- use to build dunes (check with GLO)
 3. Educate residents to Leave grass cuttings on lawns-
 4. "Keeping n' Green" recycling is planning on offering customers a compost pickup
 - c. Recycled materials? Potential City ordinance or resolution to eliminate Styrofoam in businesses
 - d. Construction waste?
 - e. Continue city-wide clean ups once per year bring materials to the recycle center (April)
 - f. Continue Shred Days; 3-4 per year (June and November)
 - g. Include volunteers; community service workers
 - h. Island is not perceived as an eco-destination by visitors
 - i. Work for zero waste city-wide goal

Next steps/goals for committee discussion

Request Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Meeting ended at 2:29 PM



Janelle Williams, City Secretary

Date Approved: July 13, 2021