



Department of Public Works
Refuse and Recycling

MINUTES

Citizens Advisory Committee on Solid Waste Minutes

February 15, 2023
6:00 PM

Attendees: Chris Harrison, John Richardson, Susan Bardenhagen, Samantha Tungul, Mark Olsen (visitor) Tom Osina and Colleen Burroughs

Absent: Marianne Walters, Rajendrashinh Chudasam, Jesus Martinez

The meeting began at 6:10PM.

- **Approval of the Meeting Minutes** – Minutes for 1/18/2023 meeting were approved by the committee as is. Susan made a motion to approve minutes and John seconded and motion carried.
- **Round Table Discussion** – John – suggested that the City of Manassas install water fountains in Old Town. Susan happy to be working with other committees on the KMB committee. Chris asked if the wax coated cardboard milk cartons can be recycled – will ask when we do the American Recycling Center site visit in May. Tom Osina provided information about the City purchasing the Old Town Inn; advised there will be a Town Hall Meeting on March 20th at 7PM at Dean Elementary to get suggestions on what to do with the property. Mark Olsen introduced himself and explained that he does the trash pickup in old town and is the Chair for the City’s Economic Development Authority.

- **Refuse and Recycling Coordinator Report** –

Colleen met with Manassas City Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Newman on Friday, February 3, 2023. At this meeting we discussed having the Keep Manassas Beautiful committee members work with/act as a resource to the schools.

- Discussed the Adopta Program – Schools very interested in participating in the program. Mentioned utilizing this program for students who need community service hours. They like the idea of the students cleaning up school grounds. They also like the idea of putting litter kits in the school libraries for students to check out. The Library Administrator will be reaching back out to me.
- Discussed the idea of having a video contest with an environmental theme. Schools also interested in that idea. Stated there was no way to do the contest this school year, so the idea is to do it for next school year. The Science Department person will be reaching back out to me.
- “Ways to Keep Manassas Beautiful” – essay/project was discussed in conjunction with the 150th Anniversary. Stated there was no way to add this to the work that needed to be done prior to end of school year.
- Discussed utilizing KMB committee members/City staff if speakers were needed or for after school clubs. They realize that the committee/City staff is a resource that they can tap.

- Discussed additional environmental curriculum being included in science classes; Dr. Newman was not interested in the City/committee members teaching at schools and making curriculum suggestions. Again, he is aware that the schools can utilize the committee/City staff as a resource.
- Dr. Newman mentioned that the schools may be setting up community gardens at the schools and was wondering if the City of Manassas would be able to help out in some way. They will reach out when they have more information. Tom Osina provided information about the community garden in Point of Woods. Colleen will get this information to Kisha to discuss a community garden at the schools.
- **Events** - Our next 2 Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Recycling events are scheduled for Saturdays, March 4, 2023 and April 1, 2023 from 8AM – 12Noon at the Manassas Transfer Station. No volunteers will be needed for these 2 events.

2023 RecycleFest dates are:

Saturday, May 6, 2023; Saturday, August 5, 2023; and Saturday, November 4, 2023 - We will need volunteers to help out at these 3 events. Please put these dates on your calendars.

Volunteer sign-up sheet will be sent out in late March/early April for our first RecycleFest event which will be held on Saturday May 6, 2023 from 8AM – 12Noon (plus set up/clean up time) at the Manassas Transfer Station. We will have household hazardous waste and electronics collection as well as secure document shredding available.

150th Anniversary Event – no volunteers will be needed for this event on 4/1/2023. Hope all can attend.

- **Old Business** –

Sustainable Task Force Update – Samantha Tungul stated she was unable to attend the January Meeting. Next meeting is in March 2023.

- **New Business**

Food Waste Composting Program. The City of Manassas is looking into expanding the food waste composting program. Currently, the program has 84 households participating. During the month of December 2022 = 3,074 pounds of food waste was collected for composting. Since the program started in early 2021 50,026 pounds of food waste has been collected. Samantha Tungul advised the committee that she is participating in this program. Chris stated that he does this on his own and that the compostable bags used break open when removed from container. Colleen advised that when Compost Crew empties the containers, they are dumping the container into a larger container, so the bags don't seem to be breaking.

Starting in the spring, we would like to start having a volunteer visit the weekly Thursday and Saturday Farmers Markets to hand out a flyer containing information about Food Waste Composting to those shopping at the Farmers Markets. Samantha brought up setting up a table for this; and Colleen advised we are not trying to take up everyone's time; just need someone to walk around and distribute flyers.

- **Announcements**

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6PM in the Public Works conference room.

Samantha Tungul made the motion to adjourn/John Richardson seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:52PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Burroughs

Refuse & Recycling Coordinator

City of Manassas