

# **Bellaire Recycling Committee Meeting**

**May 7, 2008**

## **Members Present**

Craig Bello

Mike Haysley

Maya Samardzija

Robert Johnson

Stephanie Goldfield

## **Non-voting Members Present**

David Ritz, Deputy Director of Public Works

Todd Gross, Information Coordinator of Public Works

Gail Davies, Former BRC Committee Member/Chair

## **Guests Present**

Gail Edminston, BRC candidate

Kristen Schuster, BRC candidate

## **Call to Order**

- Viewed video showing a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)
- Introduction of members, staff and guests (see list above)
- Noted no significant communications other than garage sale questions
- Approved April minutes

## **Committee Business**

- Articles brought in by Craig Bello
  - Bellaire garage sale articles
  - Article by Stephanie Goldfield in Village News for Earth Day
- Stephanie noted recycled/recyclable containers used by Barnaby's
- Recruiting – Open positions on committee and deadline for applying is next week. Reminder to ask friends and neighbors to apply. No information at this time regarding number of applications

## **Public Works Update**

- David Ritz noted that the volume is running at about 25-30 tons a week, which remains consistent with historical levels going back to the pilot
- Public Works is attempting to do a count of bins collected during a given week. Will need to count again next week due to an error this week.
- Volumes suggest west is higher than east in Bellaire, but that is not necessarily true for participation. Bin counts will assist with that and other numbers (ex. percentages, volume per household, etc.)

## **Park & Pools**

- Bernie Satterwhite informed Mike Haysley that efforts to recycle at the pool and park were simply not feasible at this time due to the effort needed to open the pool and the lack of resources. Bernie promised to raise the issue at a later time and was supportive of the initiative.
- Mike commented that although it was disappointing to get that answer, it was refreshing to get a definitive response and an affirmation that it would happen.
- Mike collected a quote from a private recycler who said they could place a commingled (plastic, aluminum, paper, etc), commercial dumpster and provide weekly pickup for \$90 per month. This could provide an option that would reduce the need for Public Works to handle the materials. This container could be placed in the same location where Parks currently has a dumpster for refuse.
- \*\*\* Mike will loop back around with Bernie in the next week or two to determine if the timing is right to again raise the issue.

## **Recycling Education**

- Efforts to engage schools have been unsuccessful (0 for 3). The school contacts that have been met with are not interested.
- Some schools have clubs (ex. Pin Oak's Club Green) that might be a point of contact, as could the PTO
- It was noted that the schools (and HISD) have continuously been opposed to our efforts, and there are plenty of other options for reaching kids with education.
- This sub-committee will attempt to meet again in the coming weeks

## **2009 Budget**

- We still have one week to get in budget items to Todd
- Items noted:
  - \$600 for each newsletter (\$1800 total), which includes an insert
  - \$400 for event preparation (\$100 per event)
  - \$200 for garage sale costs
- \*\*\*Need quotes for promotional items
  - Do not need 3 quotes, just detailed enough to give full cost
  - Canvas bags are good give-aways, but we can often get these for free from various entities/companies with a simple written request on City letterhead
    - \*\*\*Stephanie will create a form letter for future use
    - \*\*\*Patricia Ritter organized buying these in the past and Craig will ask her if she can help again
- Name/Logo
  - \*\*\*Mike will email the mock up for CARES (Community Awareness – Recycling, Environment, Sustainability) to Stephanie
    - CARES was thought up by Patricia Ritter
  - \*\*\*Stephanie will provide logo creation quote to Craig
  - City Council and City Manager will need to be consulted before this can proceed
- \*\*\*Craig will get quotes for bin stickers
- Todd commented that it would be useful to have a timeline as to when purchases would be made so proper planning can be made for actual purchasing

### **Spring Fling**

- Rainy, low turnout

### **Garage Sale**

- Over 150 registrants. Over 100 registered on-line
- Recommendations for 2009 Garage Sale:

- Instructions that there will only be ONE printing (not a second one if rainout)
- Set a hard deadline, clearly noted in the materials, of 4:30 on the final day – NO EXCEPTIONS
- Ran out of guides at library, but still had ½ at the Rec Center. Distribute more to library next year and make more copies
- Include information on the form as to WHAT TIME each garage sale will start (common question)

### Newsletter

- Robert would like to have recurring topics and sections
  - \*\*\*Performance data – David and Robert will get together to review
  - Trash Talk/Fast Facts are good
- There was an issue with the printing last time. Will review copies at the printer before taking possession in the future
- Craig will do an article on water bottles
- \*\*\*Send article/content ideas to Robert via email
- Deadline for articles: **July 10<sup>th</sup>**
- Agreed to stick with green colored paper. Will note on future editions that the newsletter is printed on recycled paper, and will look at options for degree of recycled paper (vs. cost)

### Haz Waste Events Update

- Harris County notified us that they would not do a Haz Mobile event for us.

### Whole Foods

- They have the potential to be a very valuable partner, so the Committee needs to make more efforts to work with them, including participation in their 2009 Earth Day event.

### **July 4<sup>th</sup> event:**

- Coordinate via email
- Normally are in the parade on a Public Works truck and have a booth after

Agreed to move next meeting to June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Next Meeting

June 11, 2008

Submitted by Mike Haysley, Committee Member