

Bellaire Recycling Committee Meeting

August 6, 2008

Members Present

Mike Haysley

Gail Edmiston

Maya Samardzija

Robert Johnson

Members NOT Present

Stephanie Goldfield

Jim Bettis

Non-voting Members Present

Todd Gross, Information Coordinator of Public Works

Craig Bello, Ex-officio BRC member

Guests Present

Paula Fendley, BRC candidate

Steve Hanrahan, former original BRC member

Call to Order

- Introduction of members and visitors
- Approved July minutes

Committee Business

- Robert Johnson voted as the new BRC Vice-Chair.
- Three people applied for the open BRC position. The City Council will hold the interview on Monday (8/11/08).
- Donations from companies: Robert informed the committee that \$1,000 is allowed to be received in donations per event, per company/entity without City Council approval. Anything beyond \$1,000 would require City Council approval.

Public Works Update

- Curbside and Recycling Center vendors - Todd informed the committee that he has received bids from two (2) curbside vendors. Public Works is evaluating the bids and will present their recommendation to the City Council on August 18, 2008. Both vendors are able to handle plastics #1-5 & #7.
- Recycling Center: With the curbside program running, the Center is now only collecting half of what it used to collect before the curbside recycling began. Todd and Robert affirmed that we first need to see an increase in the curbside recycling before any changes to the Recycling Center are made (ie. no-man operated Center or no Center).

- **Action Item:** *Todd will send an update of the Recycling Center's efficacy to Robert.*

Projects

- Plastics, Glass & Yard Waste - Robert reported on his meeting with the West U Recycling Committee Chair noting the differences between the West U RC and BRC, namely 1) placement of stickers for West U residents who place recyclable material in the trash, 2) no term restrictions for the recycling committee (current chair has been on the West U Board for 10 years), and 3) conducting approximately 1 event a month and 2 heavy trash events a year. West U just started using a new yard vendor. Removing their yard waste from the landfill will reduce their landfill fees by \$10 a ton.
 - **Action Items:** *1) Robert & Mike will try to attend the next West U RC meeting and/or event. 2) Robert will find out from the West U the name and contact of the yard waste vendor. 3) Nominate a liaison with the West U committee to learn from them.*
- It was discussed how to recognize residents who recycle, by possible nominating certain blocks or streets that participate 100%.
 - **Tabled:** *Consider advertising on the web-site, and communicate by e-mail.*
- Education - Gail showed a 1992 BRC Guide. She suggested publishing a similar guide that people would keep as a reference and put it in a welcome bag to all new residents. The Guide would include all pertinent information re recycling in Bellaire and have stand alone pages which could be converted into separate brochures. This information would also be available on the web-site.
 - **Action item:** *Mike will review the information he already has on the CD, index it, and have a draft by the next meeting.*
- Events - Pumpkin Patch will be on October 11 & 12 from 11am – 4pm at the Nature Discovery Center. The Committee addressed organization and planning such as having recycling bins there to sell, etc. Robert and Gail presented some possible promotional items, i.e. BPA free 0.5 liter lightweight bottle, and canvas grocery bags. A logo would be placed on the bag that has a picture from the City of Bellaire logo and “Bellaire Proud to Recycle” text. Craig recommended to first contact Patricia Ritter before ordering any bags as she has already done the research and ordered them before. Todd said that we have \$3,200 budgeted for the promotional items, and just under \$2,000 for the 3 newsletters which will all be available October 1, 2008.
 - **Action items:** *1) Gail will contact Patricia and work on ordering reusable grocery bags that are the size of a brown paper bag. 2) Gail will send an e-mail to both current & past committee members to try and recruit them as volunteers for the boot. 3) Mike will ask the City attorney to look into our formalized letter re donations.*
- Newsletter & Communications - Robert asked all committee members to research items for the Newsletters and help him find fun facts re “trash talk” that are interesting for kids and adults. Robert also asked that we all think about how to implement some systems and easy

ways to start recycling, to encourage people to start slow and work their way up, and to find out what are the things that keep some people from not recycling. Craig added that there are 2 ways to increase recycling participation 1) education and 2) pay as you throw (i.e. having special & limited number of trash bags).

- **Action item:** *Mike has plethora of interesting recycling facts, which he'll send to Robert.*

- Other (Goals, Parks & Pools, Bin Stickers) - Todd hasn't heard anything on Parks & Pools. Mike said that his initial plan was simplified and required \$90 a month to pick up. He added that we might want to bid this out. One of the problems was a space issue for the containers. Robert reminded that "Rules and Regulations" must be on file and that we are the only committee that doesn't have them.
 - **Action items:** *1) Mike will put an e-mail re forward looking goals. 2) Craig will design a bin sticker and have a place on it for residents' address. 3) Mike will put an action item list. 4) Robert to finalize and Mike to review "Rules & Regulations". We'll vote on this at the next meeting*

Next Meeting

Consider moving from September 3 to September 10, 2008

Submitted by Maya Samardzija, Committee Secretary