

# DRAFT MINUTES UNTIL APPROVED BY THE SC

## REGULAR SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Bartholomew Room, City Hall

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS:</b> Carolyn Engeldinger, Amanda Kueper, Alyssa Sanden, Jeremy Barthels, Brian Shaw
	<b>STAFF:</b> Rachel Lindholm, Roxanne Nelson (MN GreenCorps)
<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>LIAISONS:</b> Jenna Hanson (CSC)
	Laura Durenberger-Grunow, Ben Whalen (City Council)

### Call to Order

Kueper called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

### Approval of Minutes/Agenda

Engeldinger moved to approve the agenda and previous minutes, seconded by Barthels, approved by all.

### Public Comment

None

### Staff Reports

#### **Other (PiE, commissioner re-application)**

Lindholm gave an update on the PiE Business Blitz happening this week – helping businesses with lighting audits. Lindholm also talked about the commissioner re-application process for those with 2 year terms. She will send details and application information out to the commissioners. Shaw reminded the commission of the upcoming Buckthorn event at Wood Lake Nature Center on 11/14.

#### **Organized Collection**

Lindholm recapped the organized collection roll-out and transition to service in the new system. Almost all households had new carts delivered by the end of the first week. Waste Mgmt's roll-out was slower and had more problems, and the City worked to hold them accountable through the process. All haulers spent time removing extra carts and swapping sizes for residents, especially if they were delivered sizes that were different from what they had before.

Most current complaints are related to missed pick-ups. City staff are working with the specific haulers experiencing these issues to confirm service details, like walk-up service and routing details. Staff are also working in-depth on organics education as the new service becomes adopted more by residents. Commissioners pointed out that Aspen organics carts aren't all labeled and suggested using the county labels for them, potentially as an MRC project. Commissioners also suggested posting on social media about billing info and misconceptions, including auto-pay, refunds, and more.

### Discussion Items

#### **Hennepin County Anaerobic Digester**

Chair Kueper described her previous communication with Ben Knudson from Hennepin County regarding their efforts to construct an anaerobic digester. She described the significance of establishing this site in relations to many organics programs starting in the County in the near future, especially Richfield's own program. She proposed drafting a letter of support from the commissioner and commissioners discussed points to include in the letter. Lindholm will research and provide the tonnage collected from the curbside organics program and the drop-off program to use in the letter.

### Action Items

No official action items happened during the meeting but Kueper did discuss action items for commissioners to do before the next meeting, including:

### Committee Reports

Hanson reported on the CSC's last meeting, giving an update on:

- Fremont and Christian park playgrounds are on hold until 2022 due to supply chain issues
- DNR grant was received to plant 100 trees
- Half-Haunted Halloween event was a success
- Dog costume contest at the dog park
- WLNC bonding bill tour went well – legislators came to learn about the project!
- VEAP food drive – 12/1 – 12/15 with a 5,000 lb goal. 11/24 deadline for signing up to host. There will be public drop sites at many city buildings as well.

### Other/Next Meeting/Adjournment

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm, Bartholomew Room.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Sanden, seconded by Shaw. Meeting adjourned by Kueper at 8:10 pm.