

Minutes
Environmental Stewardship Commission
August 9, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Sarah Flem, Rob Shimp, Dennis Healy, Patrick Walker, Chris Pagan, Lauren Albarella

City Council Representative: Sarah Stankorb Taylor

City Staff: Rob Nicolls, Public Works Director

Meeting Minutes Approval

Approval of May meeting minutes with no changes - approved by members.

Solid Waste/Recycling Rate/Food Waste Program Update

- Recycling numbers remain mostly consistent - a little low in July (vacations?)
- Compost numbers - 1 ton for July (at goal)
- 7th bin went in last Thursday.
- Things are looking good - vinegar spray is helping.

Education Plan

Upcycle Day/Junk Day – ESC Statement to City Council

- Some side-bar conversations re: stakeholder reaction (City Manager, Mayor) - the initial feedback was that additional discussion would be needed to determine City's specific involvement (i.e., police officer to help with traffic control, help in executing agreements, and so on).
- The Mayor agrees that Junk Day does not align with the Master Plan.
- Do we need to attach the education plan to the statement to reiterate the importance of education? Yes, we will add a blurb with the language from the EP to reaffirm our commitment on that front, "The City should embark on a communication campaign to education residents about the existing services Rumpke provides...."
- We will include our snapshot with QR codes ("Freebox first, Recycle/Upcycle, Junk") - showcasing that piece in other mediums as it was intended.
- Will present to City Council as a resource - Rob Nicolls and Rusty Herzog, City Manager, will send the final document.
- Dennis Healy will assemble the final pieces and send the doc to Rob Nicolls (Chris Pagan has letterhead).
- The vote: The letter to be sent to City Manager on ESC recommendation on Junk Day (as amended with attachments) - *the motion was passed.*
- Timing for Upcycle Day planning is to begin January 1st - we can use the November meeting to start the pre-planning process - this should go on the agenda for that month's meeting.

- Committee of the Whole meeting will be September meeting likely (it will be after our ESC meeting) - September meeting will need some time for discussion on planning.

Green Business Awards

- Sarah Flem sent an email to various businesses (sent it out on the 28th of July) - went into City email.
- No applicants yet.
- The deadline is August 30th.
- Emily Dengler could help with some communication and stirring interest on this - Sarah Stankorb Taylor will email to ask her to do something along the communication front.
- Sarah Flem will send a reminder email to smaller groups to make sure that emails aren't ending up in junk/spam.
- We will see what we get if additional communication helps.
- ESC has some suggestions - Sight, The Market at Be., Gabby's.

Fall Festival

- ESC opted not to participate last year.
- The primary initial goal was to build an email distribution list - it was generally unsuccessful.
- The date is October 7th.
- ESC has decided to participate this year to promote the Food Waste Drop-Off program.
- Many ESC members will be out of town, but Dennis Healy, Patrick Walker, Lauren Albarella, and Sarah Stankorb Taylor are available.
- Our booth will include Food Waste Drop signage, a green bin, and the remaining black buckets (as an attempt to get the rest of them distributed).
- We will loop the promotional video on a laptop (or something like that) and bring some boxes of compostable liners.
- Sign Up Genius (Lauren will send this).
- We will include the stainless-steel straws as well.

Miscellaneous

ESC had a brief discussion about expanding the composting program into the schools.

Respectfully submitted,
Lauren Albarella