

Environmental Stewardship Commission Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

The City of Wyoming Environmental Stewardship Commission met in regular session on January 11, 2022, in the conference room at the City Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chris Babb.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Babb
Lauren Albarella
Sarah Flem
Katie Lawrence
Chris Pagan
Patrick Walker

STAFF

Rob Nicolls, Public Works Director

Council Representative

Sarah Stankorb Taylor, Vice Mayor

Approval of the October 2022 meeting minutes

Lauren Albarella moved to approve the November meeting minutes; Patrick Walker seconded. All approved with a vote of aye.

Mr. Nicolls reported that waste totals were down for December. However there were 543 tons in the category of “additional recycling” in November due to a really remarkable leaf pickup season. Last year the leaf droppage was split more evenly between November and December. Even still there was almost 100 tons more in leaf waste this year.

Katie Lawrence commented that in reading *The Secret Life of Trees*, she learned that leaf growth is determined by the weather in the year prior.

Mr. Nicolls announced the good news that Wyoming is going to be recommended to be awarded the \$75k grant from Hamilton County R3Source, (still requiring approval by county commissioners) for leaf boxes needed for our leaf composting program. Mr. Nicolls commented that this year, three different times Public Works staff had to weld current boxes together before going out for pickup.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor commented that information might be good to pass along to R3Source with our thanks so they know just how needed and appreciated the grant funding is.

Ms. Albarella announced that she submitted the second grant application she and Mr. Pagan have been working on. The application went through multiple iterations. Her contact at R3Source believes they will hear within a couple weeks as to their status. The ultimate goal, if the grant is approved, is to implement the rollout by Upcycle Day. The budgeted grant totaled around \$8,000 and change with around \$2300 in

match, including some labor for building a corral for drop-off bins. Lauren had sent a draft to her R3Source contact for feedback in advance and received feedback. The hope is to place ads in Wyoming Living. If the grant is approved, the group will need to coordinate timing, give out 200 buckets to residents for free with a sticker on the outside describing what can be composted, signs designed and placed at drop-off, 100 extra stickers made to have on hand for distribution. The goal is 10% Wyoming households participating). The central effort will be marketing. Mr. Walker pointed out that not all residents will need specially marketed buckets.

One key bit of feedback from R3Source was not including liners in buckets. Further R3Source suggested counting households rather than tonnage, but the group believes this will be far too difficult, especially because the composting partner will easily provide tonnage.

We do hope to record email addresses/contact information to have some simple tally of participants, perhaps through a Sign-Up Genius.

Ms. Albarella offered to send around an article about how Upper Arlington started compost drop-off and moved to at-home pick-up.

Currently, setting Upcycle Day as the goal for rolling out the program if the grant is approved, with a Civic Center event as a backup alternative. Ms. Stankorb Taylor will ask the city manager about the possibility of doing a city video and a What's Up Wyoming story. We'll also need design help for a sticker.

Mr. Babb discussed the Green Your School Mini-Grant kickoff. He sent the grant application around to ESC members in November. The group reviewed it and everyone was comfortable with the draft.

Upcycle Day will be held April 21, 12-6 PM. Mr. Walker noted it should be very busy given the shorter timeframe. He is already contacting participating partner groups. It's too early to hear from him at this point for some. Members discussed any possible way of expanding the event, however other items, such as light bulbs, would bring cost or potential danger.

Mr. Walker is interested in seeking a paper shredding option. He asked about a potential sponsor and will seek one. He will also look into tire recycle.

The group discussed collecting DORA cups back.

Mr. Walker also volunteered to repurpose some of Ms. Stankorb Taylor's old yard signs (upcycling them) using recycled paint from last year.

Mr. Pagan will help find good yards to place them.

Mr. Nicolls is blocking the day off.

Mr. Pagan also noted that due to the new federal rebate for green appliances we may see many old appliances.

Ms. Albarella will reach out to Wyoming Living to get an ad placed for Upcycle Day.

Ms. Stankorb Taylor shared with the group that the Stormwater Taskforce has gotten started and Mayor Monich is taking lead for council. Mr. Nicolls is the staff rep. He will give updates from now on.

Mr. Babb asked how the addition of two recycling cans in public areas is going. Mr. Nicolls reported that he has not seen much traffic at the one in the Village Green. Ms. Stankorb Taylor said she has seen a lot of use at the one in front of Wyoming Community Coffee. Mr. Nicolls shared that he hoped to have some money left in the budget at the end of the year to add some at the end of the year but did not have it. Perhaps this year he will and can add some cans then.

Mr. Pagan asked if the electric charging stations at the Rec Center get much use. Mr. Nicolls shared that he gets reports monthly. Much of the time they are idle, however he will continue looking for grants for highly trafficked areas.

Mr. Pagan is still interested in looking for EPA grants for other recycling containers for other areas of the city. Perhaps this can become a priority after we hear about the composting grant and, if successful, get that program established.