

DRAFT

Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2019, 8am – 9:30am
City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Ave, Council Chambers
Minutes taken by Susy Jones

Members Present: Ilana Bebchick, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Laura Nichols, Michael Pappas, Anne Sherman, Matthew St. Onge, Kristen Watkins

Members absent: Meera Singh, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage

Staff Present: Meryl Brott, Camilla Elvis, Mike Orr

Housekeeping:

December minutes were approved.

Review of 2018 Accomplishments:

Mike Orr reviewed the 2018 accomplishments that the RAC contributed to. Special highlights included:

1. Martha Henry's 2 publications
2. Assist in outreach for launch of curbside compost
3. Outreach (PARKing Day, Mayfair, Fresh Pond Day)
4. Meera on PBS NewsHour
5. Help with a Fix-It Clinic
6. Letter to Commissioner on standard trash bin
7. Comments on Zero Waste Master Plan
8. Continued help with school composting/recycling
9. RAC members attending and commenting in City Council meetings
10. Participatory Budget assisting in new funding for recycling
11. Mary's impact on reuse materials for art

Other comments include:

- 1200 tons of food scraps were collected April-December, with a 7-8% decrease in trash
- Anne Sherman added that, as HDR mentioned in their December presentation, continual education over a variety of channels is what is effective for reducing waste, and the RAC does this well

Discussion of 2019 Goals

Draft Proposed goals:

- An annual meeting with the Commissioner.
- At least one RAC-led event (e.g., Fix-It Clinic, Zero waste event, or a special one day recycle program at the Recycling Center).
- At least one collaboration with another department or advisory committee (e.g. a meeting with the Arts Council to try to incorporate more recycled items in art, or an annual yard waste collection and beautification with the Conservation Commission).
- Up to 4 stories or commentaries in the Cambridge Chronicle or another publication.
- Promoting zero waste Participatory Budget ideas and then voting for them (and encouraging others to do so) should they become formal proposals.

Anne Sherman and Mike Orr led a design-thinking activity to brainstorm ideas for 2019, using post-it notes.

- The group brainstormed responses to the question: What activities can the RAC do to support Cambridge's zero waste goals?
- The group brainstormed activities in 4 categories: events, education/outreach, planning, and new programs
- The group members reviewed initial ideas, added more, and then each member voted on favorite ideas
- The ideas that received the most votes:
 - Citywide swap or yard sale event (discussion below)
 - There was an idea to make this a collaboration with Fix It Clinic
 - Laura Nichols said that individuals could register yard sales with Mayor's office, DPW could pick up remaining items at end of the day
 - Debby Galef said that we should specify yard sale vs. swap fest - two different things, would need to decide
 - Rob Gogan said we should focus on promoting a culture of reuse as the most important thing
 - Continue to explore integrating a "3 chute" requirement into city design guidelines for new construction of residential buildings
 - Develop one policy goal per year to advocate for to DPW Commissioner based on HDR/past ideas
 - Use RAC time during meetings to develop participatory budget ideas
 - Recognition program for zero waste businesses, those who have unique ways to reduce waste
 - Large scale public art project, e.g., mural, sculpture
 - Article/video on a waste audit featuring wacky things you can't recycle
 - Shred days with Consumer Council
 - Bottled vs. tap water taste test at events
 - Organize bin monitors at big events, e.g., farmers markets, help sort trash
 - Tool library
 - Host speaker series/workshops for public
 - Film screenings on topics, e.g., plastic waste, guest speaker and discussion
- Rob Gogan said we can't lose focus on "clean recycling", also keep it simple, and keep it fun
- Kristen Watkins commented we should prioritize things that the RAC can have the most impact on
- Martha Henry said the water taste test is great idea and could go viral

See below for full results and voting for 2019 goals.

Action Items

- Anne and Mike will chart these ideas according to impact and feasibility

- Anne said we'll keep all of the ideas in a shared document - for use at future meetings or other projects

Announcements

- Valentine's Day Cosmetic Drive - Rob Gogan is collecting donations for YWCA in Central Square, where 100 women and children get good safe place to stay. Drop off locations TBD
- Fix It Clinic at the Harvard Ed Portal, Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 11 AM – 2 PM, 224 Western Ave, Allston, Massachusetts 02134
- Cabot Science Library Fix It Clinic around Earth Day

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.

IDEAS	# of votes
citywide swap fest	9
RAC-sponsored film screening on: plastics, waste impact, recycling, etc. Guest speaker for discussion to follow	7
Recognition program for businesses working toward zero waste or who have unique ways to reduce waste	7
Host Tool Library	6
Explore possibility of adding "3 chutes" to City design guidelines for new construction/renovation	6
Article/video about recycling audit. What wacky things people put in their bins and why they can't be recycled	5
Use RAC meeting to discuss and develop proposals for participatory budgeting in advance of voting	5
Host speakers series/workshops for public	5
Support large scale public art project on waste (mural/sculpture)	4
Volunteer at City events to be "bin monitors" that help people sort trash right at events/farmers markets	4
Host water taste test between bottled and Cambridge water	4
citywide yard sale	3
Create one policy goal to advocate for with Commissioner based on HDR recommendations from ZWMP, other past RAC ideas	3
Provide continued Shred Days with Consumer Council	3
Video of water taste test	3
Pilot of composting in larger building	3
Videos of famous Cambridge residents playing Camilla's sorting game (start with Matt Damon)	3
reusable water bottle drive similar to what RAC did with bags	3
create specific textile recycling area in Recycle Center	3
diaper recycling	2
Prizes for people seen using reusable bag or tableware	2
circulate large posters throughout City	2

create neighborhood ambassador program--volunteers who live in neighborhood to help educate neighbors who move in about how to recycle and compost	2
promote awareness on connection between climate change and waste	2
Engaging the business community through biz associations or chamber	2
continuing/re-education about what is and is not recyclable	2
Invitations from RAC to public to join meetings	2
regular RAC meeting with youth/teen committee	2
have several "bring your old clothes, or batteries, or styrofoam or shoes" days in different locations	2
story-- interviews with people who are composting--why they love it, why they participate and how they manage it	2
Tours of GLSD	2
partner with nearby municipality to co-host zero waste day (arlington, belmont)	2
public compost bins at certain events	1
Bike amnesty (Sharing/scrapping)	1
public brainstorm session: "design charette" invite specific people	1
support more compost/organics outreach to neighbors (similar to initial pilot)and share the data with them, reiterate purpose	1
creation/promotion of very simple one message, recycling posters	1
promote existing reuse channels (Buy Nothing, MITfx, donation sites)	1
waste audits	1
more education on contamination of recycle bin	1
recommendation to Commissioner for stronger enforcement of existing policies	1
work with cafes to build reuse culture (eg, Boulder steel mugs)	1
focus on data: how much gallons of trash setout	1
in your face posters/ads	1
Serendipitous rewards for participating in programs, possibly the gift of a standard trash can	1
provide an educational component to the preschools (fun & games)	1
comic book version of waste/compost communication	1
all representing business or institutions on RAC present their zero waste goals	1
common offences: monthly short article or video about one item that can't be recycled and why	1
anything to make the Recycle Center seem less like a dark alley	1