

**MEETING MINUTES
RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE REDUCTION BOARD
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

Public Works Building – Lunchroom - 3825 Milton Street

1) Call to Order

Marlow called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2) Attendance

Members Present: Barnwell, Brown, Castro, Jacobs, Marlow, Sheth

Also Present: Barrera

Members Absent: Ball, Becker, Incavo, Selna, Sickler

3) Agenda Order

There were no changes to Agenda order.

4) Approval of Minutes

Sheth motioned to approve minutes of the April meeting and the motion was seconded by Castro. The Board voted unanimously to approve the April minutes.

5) Board Member Reports

a) HGAC Grant – recycling and trash containers – Update – Gerardo/ Board

City (Barrera) reports that there is \$2,900 left in the Grant. The money needs to be spent by approximately June 30. The Board agreed on buying reusable signage as well as concrete pads for the current bins. The pads should make the bins easier to open as well as solving several environmental factors (bulging and fire ants). Jacobs also suggested buying one more bin.

b) Tri-Sports – recycling and trash containers – Update – Board

Currently both old and new containers are in use but city will begin to phase out old.

c) Arbor Day/ Spring Festival – April 13 – Board

Shreya distributed a report of the event to the Board. The event was successful and the Board reached out to about 100 community members.

Some of the suggestions for next year include pre-mixing the soil/ compost as well as using a faster more reliable “grower” such as the dependable (as well as adorable) Lima bean.

d) West University Elementary School Earth Day – April 22 – Board

Olivia Benitez orchestrated a very immersive experience for the elementary school students. The kids did art, physical games, science, etc. Earth Day culminated in the kids signing “the pledge” during their lunches. Jacobs, Barnwell, and Castro participated that day and report a great experience with the kids.

e) Composting Event – May 4 – Board

Yvonne distributed a report to the Board on this event. She reports that there were 33 attendees. The feedback was excellent and showed that length and content were appropriate. People who filled out the form were also amenable to future courses. Yvonne suggested that perhaps a Master Course in Recycling would be a good topic. She (and others) will submit ideas for this proposal.

Next composting course will be October 5 from 9 to 11 with location to be determined (either recreation center or Scout House).

f) Shredding Event – May 4 – Gerardo

Gerardo submitted a report showing community response to shredding event. The report starts in 2016 to the present and shows fairly consistent amounts (paper shredding, e-waste, and mattresses).

Barnwell noted that Bellaire would shortly be holding a shredding event as well. They are taking scrap metal. Gerardo is continuing to investigate Bellaire sources for this service to consider for West University future use.

g) New Neighbor Program – Jerome

Jerome emailed out the “new neighbor” list and brought in supplies.

Jerome also indicated that if homes (not on “new neighbors” list) need bins that Board should distribute as needed. Please submit names and addresses of recipients to Jerome.

h) Upcoming Events

July 4

i) Currents Articles Discussion (K-pods, plastic film, paints and textiles, etc.)

Currents topics are on Action Items table. Marlow will circulate articles to Board for review.

j) Miscellaneous

Yvonne and Pam reported on presentation to West University Baptist Church Preschoolers (aged 4 to 5).

Yvonne mentioned on-line utility payments and indicated that some banks might begin charging a fee for paper copies of reports.

Barnwell discussed the logistics of scanning articles for archives.

It will shortly be time to reapply for the Board. Marlow will send out the Board description to current members for review so that applicants will be clear about responsibilities.

Drug Take-Back is available every day at the Walgreens located on the corner of Bissonnet and Buffalo Speedway.

6) West University Staff Report

The Board reviewed the April Report as prepared by Gerardo. He indicated that we will shortly be reconsidering contracts for waste and recycling.

7) Chairman's Report

Nothing additional to report.

8) Board Member Comments

Nothing additional to report.

9) Adjournment

At 7:18 Barnwell motioned to adjourn tonight's meeting and the motion was seconded by Brown. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.