

Lafayette Waste Reduction Advisory Committee Meeting
September 6, 2012
Minutes

Attendance: Kristi Chapin, Marjorie Griek, Laura Estle, Jeff Schwartz, Shelly Colwell, Kathy Wertz, Brad Wiesley and Doug Short. Guests Rolin Germsin, Odale Cress, Milo Cress and Julie Klein.

Minutes

The minutes of August 2nd were unanimously approved with a motion by Marjie and a second by Shelly.

Be Straw Free Presentation

Milo Cress presented his initiative to reduce straw-use in restaurants. Where each person in the US uses 1.6 straws per day which all end up in the landfill and those more expensive compostable and biodegradable straws would have the same result, it is better to reduce straw use than recycle. The “Be Straw Free” pledge is that straws only be served to restaurant patrons upon request. Milo is inquiring if the City of Lafayette would encourage restaurants to take this pledge. The group discussed Milo’s presentation with a Q&A session. Since WRAC is an advisory committee, they would have to present this idea to Council and then that would provide an opportunity for Milo to speak to Council. After that WRAC could strategize on how to get the word out to Lafayette restaurants, to the Chamber and have Council proclaim the Be Straw Free pledge. WRAC will get back to Milo later this year for a possible presentation to Council in January.

2012 Peach Festival Critique

Eco-Cycle reported a 92% diversion rate by volume and Doug calculated an 89% diversion by weight. One vendor lost their deposit for failure to comply with the zero-waste guidelines and one vendor lost his deposit for dumping fryer grease onto Public Road. Both vendors will not be returning to future Peach Festivals. Kristi talked about the survey questions that Lisa Friend from Boulder County asked as she manned the WRAC booth. One issue that came up was the plastic wrap that the Peach growers used to protect their pallet loads of peach boxes. They need to take the wrap back with them as it is not recyclable. The grabbers WRAC currently owns are not very good and would like to see if within the 2012 budget a better quality item can be purchased.

People at the Peach Festival began taking plastic bags off the “Bag Monster”. The group discussed buying reusable bags and selling them at Peach and Oatmeal. Another option was to sell on consignment other organizations reusable bags. Doug will contact the Chamber or Eco-Cycle to see if they have bags to sell or give away. The PW staff needs to be at the WRAC booth promptly at 4 PM to remove the material and equipment.

The cutlery supplied by Sysco, that states that it is compostable, is made from a combination of plastic and potato starch resins that actually do not make it compostable. Eco-cycle staff had to remove all of this material before taking it for composting. Next

year, Eco-cycle will provide a list of approved cutlery vendors that are 100% compostable. This will need to be added to the Peach vendor information packets.

Marjie suggested calling schools, churches, environmental groups, etc. now for next years Peach. A discussion followed about previous attempts and it was the general feeling of the group that a new effort should be made to reconnect with all of the past groups to see if volunteers can be secured.

WRAC By-Laws

Work will begin at the October meeting.

WRAC Ordinance

Based on the discussion and vote of WRAC in August, the second reading of Ordinance No. 17 Series 2012 that will establish WRAC officially per the City Charter was amended to have only seven members of WRAC with two alternate members. The Ordinance, as amended, was passed on 2nd reading unanimously by City Council on August 7th and became effective on August 17th.

Old/New Business

At the September 4th City Council meeting, Council unanimously approved Kristi, Laura and Kathy for another four-year term expiring in September 2016. There will be a Fall leaf drop-Off program this year at the City Service Center during the months of October and November. The PW/WRAC Electronic Recycling event is set for 9/22 and ads will be taken out in the Boulder Camera and Hometown Weekly to further get the word out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

October 4, 2012 Meeting Agenda (6:30 p.m. at Library Conference Room):

- Approval of Minutes – September 6, 2012
- WRAC By-laws
- Old/New Business

Attest

City of Lafayette, Colorado

Douglas Short
Staff Liaison

Lafayette Waste Reduction Advisory
Committee Co-Chair Person