

## **SalemRecycles Committee Tuesday, October 1, 2019**

**Attendees:** Melynn Nuite, Micaela Gugliemi, Geri Yuhas, Beth Gillett, Kristin Woodruff, Tony Keck, Liz Vago, Carol Hautau, Nancy Gilberg, Shelby Hypes

**Absent:** Lynn Murray, John Roberts, Susan Yochelson, Erin Huggard

**Guest:** Ted Stolz

Committee meeting was called to order and minutes from September 3, 2019 were unanimously approved.

### **New Business**

- Nov 2 Repair Cafe - Per Micaela, 10 volunteer "tinkerers" are confirmed. Carol to contact her neighbor to volunteer as general "tinkerer" and musician. Shelby to contact computer repair/diagnostics volunteer. Geri suggested contacting Essex Vacuum repair, as they have expressed interest in the past. Tony to confirm 12 tables with Bridge at 211. Micaela to email committee members to volunteer.
- Nov 23 Textile Drive - Vendor = Helpsy. In past, was helpful to have AmeriCorp volunteers. Micaela to look through Julie's list of contacts. To do list: confirm Helpsy truck, confirm hours, confirm list of acceptable items. Carol to provide list of interested SHS students interested in participating.

### **Old Business**

- Sept 14 Book Drive - Feedback
  - Sorting bins: volunteers had differing opinions - both positive and negative
  - Clear communication of what is accepted - getting better, still room for improvement
  - Time discrepancy provided some confusion - lesson is to confirm all communication going out
  - Consider: changing the layout of drop-off and sorting tables, as well as utilization of tables (esp on shared tables)
- Sept 21 Food for Thought Festival - Carol's feedback:
  - Bean bag game - felt like it made an impact
  - Worth doing again - ideally 2 volunteers
- Sept 22 Point Block Party - Micaela's feedback (also volunteered: Cheryl Cripps, Dave Knowlton):
  - High contamination neighborhood, so it is good for us to do outreach there
  - Bean bag game - noticed kids' "ah-ha" moments
  - Worth doing again - ideally 2 volunteers each for 2 shifts, esp Spanish speaking volunteers
- Sept 28 Food Truck Festival Composting - Feedback:
  - Positive experiences from initial partnership event:
    - 10+ large compost bins kept out of waste (Carol)
    - 10+ cardboard bins full of recycling (Carol)
      - Although unsure if remained separated from garbage and actually recycled
    - Many people had (+) feedback (Carol)
    - SHS students expressed interest in participating in future events (Carol)
    - Feedback to be provided to Conor (Nancy)
  - Wishes for future events:

- More/larger/better visibility signage and stations (Carol, Nancy)
- Adjust English/Spanish on signage (Nancy)
- Experienced volunteers to be paired with new ones (Nancy)
- Work with the city to require vendors to use only sustainable/compostable/recyclable products (Beth)
- Remind volunteers to bring own personal items (Melynn)
- Consider signage on vendor trucks (Melynn)
- Consider working with DPW to ensure trash and recycling bins are visibly different and stay separated (Melynn)
- Opportunity to partner more with Black Earth (Melynn)

### **Task Force Updates**

- Butt Bin Recycling - Micaela to contact Ray to determine if butts are being mailed in vs thrown out -- further discussion tabled until Nov meeting
- Mandatory Recycling / Hauler Ordinance - meeting scheduled for Tuesday November 19, 2019 8:30am – 10am with RecycleWorks and Dave Greenbaum from the Health Department. This invite will be sent to all businesses, haulers and landlords for them to learn more about recycling and other waste diversion strategies as well as enforce the new ordinance.
- School Recycling Grant - Patrice has not yet been replaced, Ryan is working to hire new coordinator - Micaela to call him next week
- Composting
  - Food Truck event - [see above]
  - SAFE / Great Pumpkin Drop Sunday, November 3 - following discussion related to whether to volunteer and/or promote, how to continue to promote Black Earth, a motion was passed - Shelby and Nancy volunteered to participate.
  - Micaela and Carol attended composting event. Ideas to consider: promoting monthly notices, ways to partner with city for discounts on water bill, ways to partner with City/Black Earth to make free to residents, partnering with Off Beet.
- Mattress Recycling - update tabled until next month's meeting

### **Community Outreach**

- Waste Reduction Coordinator Update - audit
  - Contamination history: Before Micaela started 28% > last audit 18% > current audit 14%
  - Discussion re how to convey in social media/blog post. Susan to write blog post.

### **Correspondence**

- Social Media Update - 2,407 likes, 2,578 followers on Facebook. 563 followers on Instagram
- Electronic newsletter - upcoming events, contamination update, packaging (Tony)
- Blog

### **Other Business**

- General Committee Announcements