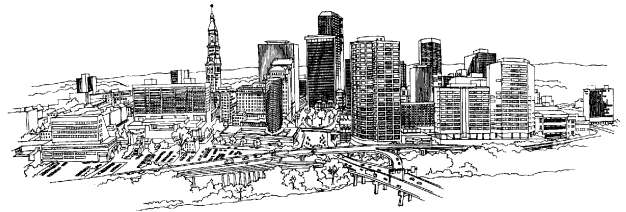




LUKE BRONIN
MAYOR

CITY OF HARTFORD
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON THE
ENVIRONMENT
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06103
WWW.HARTFORD.GOV



MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2019
Green Room, Room 100, City Hall
550 Main St., Hartford, CT 06103

Commissioners

Chair:

Kerri Provost

Vice Chair

Alex Rodriguez

Secretary

Tom Swarr

Members :

JoAnne Bauer

Sam King

Mark Mitchell

Edith Pestana

Russell Williams

Staff:

Shubhada Kambli

Grace Yi

Commissioners attending: JoAnne Bauer, Sam King, Mark Mitchell, Edith Pestana, Alex Rodriguez, Tom Swarr

City Staff: David Grant, Grace Yi

Public: Carmen Bermudez, Nancy Bowden, Henry Link, Luz Santana, Kanisha Santiago

I. Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.

II. Meeting Notes

JoAnne motions to approve July minutes. Mark seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Regular Business

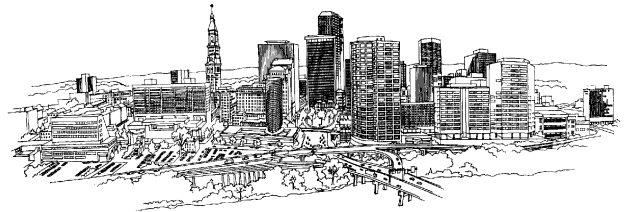
Frog Hollow Recycling Outreach Program – The update by Vecinos Unidos was moved to after the reports of the work groups.

Report by Waste Workgroup – The group did not meet in August. Tom S. reported on a brief discussion with Mike Looney to get his feedback on his discussions with ACOTE at the August meeting. His top priority would be outreach to residents to reduce the contamination levels in single stream recycling. There was discussion of creating a group that would meet on a regular basis with Mike to help develop a zero- waste strategy for the city. It was recommended that the existing workgroup take on that task. It was recognized that effective outreach to neighborhoods would require volunteer contacts in each neighborhood. Working through the NRZs was suggested as one approach.



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Edith P. observed that DEEP had developed a curriculum aligned with state science education standards and working through the schools was an effective way to reach into homes. By teaching the kids to recycle, they could then be advocates at home for better recycling. It was agreed that this would likely be a school by school effort, and Mary Hooker was a good candidate to pilot the effort.

Report by the Energy Workgroup – Alex linked the discussion to the goals of the energy group. There is interest in a community outreach program to promote energy efficiency through the Home Energy SolutionsSM program. He reported on a presentation by Bernie Pelletier on PACE’s initiative to push communities to 100% renewables. A robust energy efficiency effort is fundamental to achieving 100% renewables. It was proposed that the outreach efforts on recycling and energy efficiency be consolidated to better promote the health and equity benefits, as well as reducing energy costs. He suggested the waste and energy workgroups combine to further develop this approach. Proposed meeting dates will be sent out to both groups for a kickoff meeting.

There was some discussion of administrative hurdles in getting residents qualified as income eligible for additional benefits. Mark M. noted that Buffalo, NY has a program funded by RGGI that subsidizes efforts to overcome these kinds of hurdles. [PUSH Green](#) wraps together health and energy efficiency improvements, hires contractors, and helps residents through the process. Alex questioned if Eversource would help fund a mailing to promote the outreach. It was suggested we invite Eversource to learn more about existing programs and what help they would provide. Alex agreed to follow up.

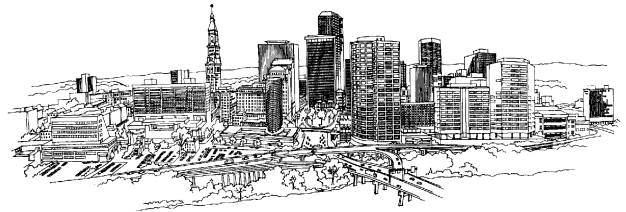
Report of the Transportation Workgroup – No August meeting.

Report by Water Workgroup: No August meeting.



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Frog Hollow Outreach – Luz Santana gave an update on the outreach to promote recycling. The original goal was to knock on 1,500 doors over six weeks. They have faced numerous challenges in organizing the effort and recruiting and retaining volunteers. Despite the difficulties, they have reached 700 homes to date. Her report highlighted the challenges that any outreach effort will face. Some of the buildings were difficult to access, because of security locks. Many buildings did not have recycle receptacles for the residents. There was discussion of how to address this non-compliance. Luz was reluctant to file formal complaints with the state, because that could make residents less willing to speak to the volunteers. It was decided to reach out to the haulers serving those buildings informally to remind them of legal requirements to provide recycling.

Other interesting challenges observed were that some apartments had been converted to condominiums, and the tenants were not even aware they were in a condominium. The city has had numerous dubious conversions to avoid paying commercial property tax rates on rental properties. But this creates confusion over who is responsible for recycling. A similar confusion was observed in stores that were contacted. Depending on the details of the lease agreement, either the landlord or the tenant could be responsible. However, those contacted were not clear on who was responsible.

They are hoping to run the outreach for another four weeks.

IV. Other Business

ACOTE outreach efforts: Tom S. had reached out to Hartford 2000, now Hartford Next, for a few minutes on the September agenda to solicit volunteers for ACOTE. Alex noted that he would like to have Luz give her presentation to Hartford Next as a way to start working with NRZs on a more coordinated outreach effort. There were questions of what specifically would be promoted as the plan, and all recognized that developing the plan and implementing effective outreach would be a long-term effort. Tom S. will connect Alex to arrange a time on their agenda for a longer presentation on outreach.



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Announcements – Please visit the [Hartford Climate Stewardship Initiative](#) web page and [ACOTE's FB group](#) page for the latest announcements.

Grace Yi noted there are more tabling opportunities than she is able to cover and was looking for volunteers to help. She will send out a list of dates so everyone can check to see if there are dates they could volunteer.

Upcoming events:

- September 20 – [Climate Strike](#) at State Capitol 12:00 – 3:00
- September 27-28 – [Source to Sea Cleanup](#)
- October 2 – Energy Expo 3:00 – 7:00 City Hall

V. Next Meeting – Oct 1, 2019. Alex noted he might have a conflict with Oct. 1. If that occurs, the meeting will be moved to Oct. 8, and a special meeting notice will be sent out.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Swarr, Secretary