

RECYCLING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

ATTENDEES:

10 Y: Liz McGroarty (recorder), Bill Restivo, Margaret Evered; Ashok Rao. Regrets: Pat MacCulloch, Steve Fry, 10 QQ :Theresa Thompson

1) Accomplished:

- a) **Electronic recycling bins** have been available in the first floor recycling room, and posters appear on the elevator monitors on a regular basis to encourage their use.
- b) **Demonstration of recyclables:** The display was presented at the condos' Annual General Meetings in the spring, along with posters of graphs indicating the successful reduction of garbage collected, with increases in recycling collected.
- c) There are some **signs prohibiting dumping** in the outdoor garbage area, however small.

2) New information:

- a. Garbage charges are based on weight. Compactors are used to reduce numbers of outdoor bins required.
- b. Green/black garbage bags in the recycling bins in refuse rooms are going to be replaced with clear ones, in order to avoid the impression that it is acceptable to put garbage in the bins.

3) Update on recommendation to fence off outdoor garbage collection area

in order to prevent non-owners from dumping garbage there, for which RWTC has to pay to be collected: the Board has investigated fencing off the area, and had discussions with the Westin Conference Centre regarding the shared space needed for supply truck turning, however, there are structural considerations that will make it very costly to build the fence. The committee has recommended that the problem be quantified to ensure the solution is not more costly than problem.

4) Update on the Green Bin program:

The City has not yet made this a mandatory program as they had planned. Therefore there is time to investigate alternate solutions to the problems identified:

- a. The committee requests that some amount of dollars be allocated for this in the new budget.
- b. How to start: The first item to be done is to purchase a large outdoor green bin for use, or to convert a bin into a green bin, per the City's instructions already provided in a letter to the condo manager. When this is done, and the first green bin is full, the condo can call to start regular pickups at no cost.
- c. How to engage all residents in the program: a survey is suggested, resulting in determining a small group of interested residents, along with a training program for those who would 'buy into' the program in order to participate.
- d. Provision of household collection pails for those interested: The city has an 'all or nothing' attitude to the household pails, so the problem might be where to store all 700 pails, and the charge that the city will levy for them if not all are used. Solution: Alternate pails could be provided at a small cost for the small group that will commit to this effort.
- e. How to collect the green compostables: To eliminate the need to purchase collection bins for the Refuse Room, as well as possible drips from garbage being carried to a bin on the ground floor, can the garbage chutes be modified to direct garbage to a 3 bin collection stand in the basement? This would eliminate the need for any recycling or green bins in the Refuse Rooms.
- f. The Recycling committee would like to know how other Brookfield Condominiums of similar size and composition are handling this project, including information about additional problems created, such as requiring extra cleaning staff or attracting vermin, and costs saved by instituting the program.

5) Update on the Welcome Package:

Changes for the 10 Yonge Street issue were submitted to Management office last fall, however, no action has been taken on the suggestion to post them to the website for downloading by interested residents, nor do we know if this is being given to new residents. It is noted that parts of the old version are still online.

- a. The committee further recommends that the Welcome Package be reviewed, reduced and reordered in terms of importance of items to a new resident, and
- b. That the ex-officio members of both Boards be required to maintain these documents so that the Management Office can continually print off the latest and current copy for a new resident.
- c. A one-page index is suggested.
- d. Bill and Liz recently met with the new Manager. January was the promised month to tackle this.

6) Refuse Room Communication to residents:

There were to have been new posters about recyclables, from the city, to replace the old ones in the Refuse Rooms; the new ones were given to the Cleaning staff lead hand, but do not appear to have been put up. If they are still available, the committee recommends that old signs be removed or altered to reflect the current acceptability of recyclables in either bin, and the new posters put up. (The green bin posters will have to wait till the program is instituted.)

7) Elevator Communication to residents:

Posters continue to be generated. (Thanks to Bill for photos to use.)

8) Composting for balconies:

Again, Margaret would be willing to develop a workshop for those interested, next spring.

9) NEW & AGAIN:

- a. Encouraging junk mail cessation: Bill will again put up the envelope with the forms in the 10 Yonge Mail room.
- b. Car Wash area requires a blue bin for collection of recyclables from cars, as well as other P doors. (Liz)
- c. Suggestion to remove the gold rim bin from the P elevator area and add a poster above them, to alert residents to the garbage and recycling bins outside the P1, P2 and P3 doors. (Liz)
- d. Liz to check availability of blue recycling bags for new residents, and inquire if they are distributed along with the information package.
- e. Ashok will bring forward Items #4a, 4f, and 5. to the next Board meeting.

NEXT MEETING: date to be decided, dependent on information obtained or work to be done