

Association of Ohio Recyclers Board Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2017

Location: GT Environmental, 635 Park Meadow Rd, Westerville, Ohio 43081

Attending were: (In-Person) Renee Navarre, Arley Owens, Matthew Hittle, Molly Kathleen, Lauren Karch, Bob Gedert, John Woodman, and Rich Brandt; (On Phone) Tony Gillund, MaryEllen Etienne, and Steve Johnson.

Not present: Tiffany Barker

Call to Order: Renee Navarre, AOR President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Action Items: Molly will keep the action items.

Introduction of new board members: Richard Brandt, with Valley Converting, was introduced to the group. Rich was voted in as a new board member at the January board meeting. A brief description of his paperboard manufacturing company was provided. Rich also indicated that there is probably a conference room available to allow for a future board meeting to take place there and the group would be able to tour the facility.

Bob Gedert, with Resource Recycling Systems, was also introduced to the group. The Board conducted a vote via email on January 23, 2017 (MaryEllen made the motion, Tiffany seconded) to elect Bob to the vacant member-at-large position that expires on December 31, 2018. Bob is the current President of the National Recycling Coalition and was involved with recycling in Ohio back when solid waste districts were formed in the late eighties. He was also part of the original recycling group that would later become AOR.

Minutes for the January 17, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Relating the narrative indicating committee appointments, a change was noted to have Tony be appointed to the Communications and Programming Committee rather than the Strategic Planning and Development Committee. John made a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 meeting minutes with the recommended change. Louise seconded the motion. Minutes were approved on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly treasurer's report was presented and discussed. Matt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Molly seconded the motion. Treasurer's report was approved on voice vote. There was discussion about the payment to Bluehost, which is the host for our domain name, ohiorecycles.org. John will find out when the contact expires [action item]. Also, Renee will be added as a signatory for the checking account – John will send notification when this happens [action item].

Partners Conference Update

MaryEllen indicated that the MOU between the four partners has been finalized. Also, the Hyatt has emerged as the final choice for the venue for the conference to be held June 4-6, 2017. The details of the contract with the hotel are still being worked out. After the contract is finalized, the save-the-date notification will be developed. It was noted that whoever develops this should reach out to Molly.

Strategic Planning and Development Committee Update

Grants and fundraising opportunities were discussed. The deadlines for both the Recycling and Litter Prevention grants and the OEEF grants have passed, so there are none to apply for right now. Arley referenced that there are over 15 Fortune 500 companies in Ohio so there are other potential grant monies out there. A fundraising brochure needs to be developed. Arley will develop a draft version of this brochure before the next meeting [action item]. Also to be developed is the brochure for new or potential members [action item].

Renee indicated that a call was held with Bob, Paul Braasch, Steve Porter, and Andy Willig to discuss options for getting key lawmakers to visit the facility. Invitees would include regional state representatives, the mayors of Galion and Mansfield as well as Governor Kasich. April 6th is the tentative date for the tour. There is potential to do the tour in the afternoon so a social event could be held somewhere nearby afterwards.

Some of the board voiced concerns about providing written support to lawmakers for a particular company. It was recommended that any language in letters to lawmakers, that is to be sent on behalf of AOR, should use language that is encompassing of an industry, rather than a particular business. It was also recommended that any correspondence of this nature should be sent to the board for review prior to being mailed.

The potential for ethical violations if board members had business ties to the company in question was brought up as well. The Ohio Ethics Commission was referenced as a resource. They are available to review issues like this, and they are generally quick to respond.

Bob related his experience working for government entities and non-profit organization through the years. The question of working with local business to support the end markets has been deliberated as well as the question whether a government official should be involved with promotion of a private business. After a lengthy review and much deliberation, the answer was yes, but with a lot of controls in the system. For the NRC, which is a 501c3 (not a 501c4 lobbying organization), it was ascertained that they could lobby on behalf of remanufacturing as generalized concept that would support local business. The controls were that the local boards or city councils at the authority level needed to give permission to do so. It was related that AOR is a 501c6.

It was asked for clarification on what the goal is for this initiative. It was stated that the facility needs funding and support, but ultimately we are just setting up a tour. It was again clarified that we should be careful that we are not promoting a certain business for the goal for getting them funding. Liberty Tire and Rumpke were referenced as other companies in the scrap tire business, but they do not use remanufacturing as part of their business models.

A suggestion was made to put a focus on the remanufacturing aspect of the Willig facility, since other scrap tire recyclers only shred their tires. Bob made a motion to support remanufacturing as part of the strategic plan and to utilize the Willig example as a first step toward supporting remanufacturing overall. Louise seconded the motion. Motion was approved on voice vote.

The packets to be sent out to the lawmakers include the coasters and will likely cost over six dollars each to mail. Louise made a motion to pay the postage for the packets and Renee seconded the motion. Motion passed on voice vote. The language on the coaster will be modified to “save our scrap tire industry” rather than “save our scrap tire business”. The new coaster design and the letter to be included in the packet will be sent to board for review prior to being mailed.

Governance Committee Update

The need to revise AOR’s code of regulations to allow for electronic voting was discussed. Also, there is language referencing meeting held by phone, but there is nothing that discusses a combination of the formats. Arley will draft an updated Code of Regulations for review at the next meeting [action item]. Another consideration is there is no reference to anything relating to Ethics in the Code.

Finance Committee

There was nothing to report outside what was presented in the Treasurer’s Report.

Communication and Programming Committee

The committee has done some initial work on mocking up a new version of the webpage on Wix. A basic version of the tabs was presented as well as an outline for the content of the webpage. Molly will email these to the group to review so those not in attendance can review it as well [action item].

A boilerplate that was developed in MailChimp was presented. It will allow our next newsletters to be sent through that mail service. A draft template will be sent to just the board members so we can see what it looks like [action item]. It was noted that we need to set up a singular email for the organization and there was discussion as to who would be notified when an email is received, likely the executive members.

It was related that most recycling organizations struggle to keep up their websites, especially with keeping the content fresh. There was discussion about different companies that have provided services to state recycling organizations.

New Business

It was related that there is potential to get a specific license plate design for AOR to made available for residents to purchase. Only 200 signatures are required and if a certain amount are sold, then it could potentially be a revenue source in the future.

Bob brought a recently introduced federal bill to the group’s attention. The “Zero Waste Development

and Expansion Act of 2017” was proposed by Congressman Keith Ellison. It establishes a grant program of \$25 million annually for five years. Also presented was a letter of support for the legislation from the National Recycling Coalition. Bob will draft a letter that voices AOR support for the legislation prior to next month’s meeting [action item].

Also briefly discussed was the potential for having a joint conference with neighboring states in the future. This was brought up as a network/membership building tool at last year’s Resource Recycling Conference. Bob related he served for years on the Indiana Recycling Coalition board. He indicated that this discussion was moving forward during his time there, but never happened. The concept that seemed most likely was to hold a shorter workshop type meeting in the winter so it doesn’t interfere with state conferences, which are a revenue generator. This idea will need to be discussed further to see how many neighboring states should be included. Also mentioned was the idea that we should push for having the Resource Recycling Conference in Ohio in 2020.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 21, 2017 at the City of Dublin Service Center, Room 204 (6555 Shier Rings Rd.)

Adjourned at 12:19 pm. Matt made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Louise seconded; approved by Board.

Submitted by Matthew Hittle, Secretary, Association of Ohio Recyclers