

**Environmental and Sustainability (ESB) Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2018**  
**Bellaire City Hall Council Conference Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

**A. Call to Order and Announcement of a Quorum**

The regular meeting of Environmental and Sustainability Board (ESB) was called to order at 6:45PM on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, by Joe Burris, Vice Chairman presiding as Chairman. There was a quorum of members present.

**Members Present**

Ayobamidele (Ayo) Bello  
Joe Burris  
Michelle (Micki) Mastin  
Brian Witt  
George Williams

**Members Absent**

Ritwick Agrawal  
Jonathan (Jon) Palmer

**Non-Voting Members Present**

Michael Leech, Bellaire Public Works Director

- B. Approval of Minutes:** Brian indicated that he sent Ayo the draft January meeting minutes early on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Ayo to send to all for review as soon as possible. The approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting (April). Modifications to the February Meeting minutes were discussed and all were well received. George motioned for the approval of the minutes with the modifications. Micki seconded the approval and the minutes as amended were subsequently approved unanimously.

**C. Introduction of Visitors:**

1. Johanna Moran.

**D. Citizen Comments, if any:**

1. None.

**E. Council Liaison Comments – Neil Verma: Present**

1. Neil applauded PW and solid waste staff relative the recycling event. He recommended possibly locating the electronic recycling/drop off accordingly to relative to others to allow for more cars without holding up the line for future events.
2. Nothing relative to City Council Business.

3. Neil indicated that the application process for Boards and Commissions will be updated starting this year. The application process was approved at the last council meeting. He indicated that City Council wanted to confirm how much time commitment Board members/Commissioners think the Boards/Commissions take up. The general consensus was between 2-6 hours per month with 4 hours per month as average.
4. Neil updated the Board about the branding identity and there was a brief discussion on the issue. No action needed.

**F. Public Works Update:**

1. Solid waste number prepared by staff but not available at the meeting. **Mike to email to Tracy to send to the group.**
2. Mike indicated that a PW staff will be attending the H-GAC's FY 2019 solid waste grant application kick off meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will report back to him so **he can report to the Board.** PW will look at the possibility of applying for grant for possible use to cover HHW vouchers as previously done.
3. Mike indicated that with the brand identity issue as is, he will be revisiting the solid waste truck wrap and **reporting back to the Board with the any modifications to the Board's approved signage.**
4. Mike indicated that Councilman Montague brought up the issue of the City picking up all vegetative debris regardless of if the resident generated the grass or if a landscape vendor did. There was a brief discussion but no actions taken. The general consensus was that if this isn't an epidemic issue in the City, the issue be left as is to not saddle the City with additional responsibility and cost.

**G. Board Business:**

1. Spring Semi-Annual Recycling Drop-off Event
  - a. Brian suggested having a recycle truck to pick up cardboard boxes instead of been thrown away. Mike indicated that a City truck can be provided for future events for items (cardboard, etc.) that are normally picked up as recycling in the City.
  - b. Mike indicated that the invoice for confidential paper shredding (Data Shredding) has been taken care of.
2. Update on the City's Solid Waste Service Plan.
  - a. Mike indicated that part of the plan will be addressing fleet maintenance which is currently reflective to proactive.
  - b. Mike indicated that the issue of possible use of containers was tabled and put on the plan to be explored later.
  - c. **Mike to send a copy of the plan to the Board for review when draft version ready.**

3. H-GAC FY 2019 Solid Waste Grant Application.
  - a. Previously discussed as part of Public Waste updates.
4. Educational Outreach Material.
  - a. George briefed the Board on the concept of the Goodyear Blimp Recycling visual. There was a discussion and some revisions were suggested.
  - b. George indicated that local print media (Instant Bellaire and Bellaire Essential) were willing to print without charging.
  - c. George motioned for the visual to be approved for public dissemination as amended. The Board unanimously approved the vote.
  - d. NDC Spring fling
    - i. Event is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 10 – 3pm
    - ii. ESB allowed to have a booth at the event.
    - iii. Volunteers to man the event
      1. Will be decided at the next meeting
    - iv. Volunteers to help update the existing ESB Signage as needed for the event
      1. Ayo, Micki, Joe
    - v. There was a discussion about having a poster or banner made for the Board for use at future events.
5. Ongoing Board Initiatives/Outstanding Items:
  - a. Ayo had a brief conversation about HHW but indicated he was still waiting for a follow up conversation with the vendor and will report back to the Board as more information become available.
6. Social Media Posts.
  - a. George provided a list of posted with suggested dates for posting to the City's Facebook page for Board consideration. There were a few modifications suggested so each post is a standalone post (some were from the same article).
  - b. There was a brief discussion about the process of getting the posts online and done correctly and what the Board members could do to facilitate this. **Mike offered to follow up with the Assistant City Manager to discuss.**
  - c. Micki motioned to approve the posts as revised, George seconded and the posts were unanimously approved.
  - d. George to send approved posts to Tracy Dutton for onward transmission to the Assistant City Manager.

**H. New Business:**

1. None.

**I. Next Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday April 4, 2018 at the City Council Conference Room.

**J. Adjourn:** Joe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Micki seconded. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24PM.

Submitted by: Ayobamidele G. Bello

----items below from reference 3-----

Please post on March 12, 2018

It is estimated that about 80% of marine debris originates as land-based trash and the remaining 20% is attributed to at-sea intentional or accidental disposal or loss of goods and waste.

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Please post on March 15, 2018

Approximately 90% of the plastics in the pelagic marine environment are microplastics (less than 5 mm in diameter).... Microplastics arise from the fragmentation of larger pieces as they weather from the effects of ultraviolet rays, and wind and wave action.

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Please post on March 19, 2018

Microplastics may not be removed as part of the wastewater treatment facility process and may pass through largely unchanged. These micro- and nanoparticle plastics, as well as other microplastics caused by fragmentation, are available for ingestion by a wide range of animals in the aquatic food web.

---items below from Reference 2----

Please post on March 22, 2018

Marine debris is often the result of poorly-managed waste on land. Between 1960 and 2013, the average amount of trash generated by each person in the U.S. nearly doubled from 2.68 to 4.40 pounds per day. As litter, this waste can end up in waterways and flow downstream into the oceans, where it becomes marine debris.

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Please post on March 26, 2018

The most effective way to prevent marine and aquatic debris is to prevent waste in the first place. This is known as source reduction, or pollution prevention. We can reduce waste by considering packaging when buying anything, and we can reuse materials like containers and products.

---items below from Reference 1-----

Please post on March 29, 2018

Say no to single use paper and plastic bags and bring your own high quality reusable bag. Whether you're picking up groceries, getting takeout food or clothes shopping, use your own bag. Each reusable bag can eliminate hundreds (if not thousands) of single-use plastic or paper bags!

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Please post on April 2, 2018

Each week, Americans buy enough plastic water bottles to circle the earth five times! Carrying your own bottle cuts waste and is much cheaper. Typically, bottled water costs 2000 times more than tap water, is actually less safe to drink, and loses taste tests in competition with tap water.

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Please post on April 5, 2018

Need more convincing to stop using bottled water?... check out "The Story of Bottled Water" at <https://storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-bottled-water/>

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Please post on April 9, 2018

Do away with throw-away lunch packaging. Each child who brings a brown bag lunch to school every day generates 67 pounds of waste each year.

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Please post on April 12, 2018

The average American once used 500 paper cups a year. Replacing your single-use paper, plastic or Styrofoam cups with a reusable cup or mug can have a huge impact. Try keeping a cup in your bag, at the office, or in your car so you always have one around. Most coffee shops offer a discount for bringing your own cup!

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Please post on April 16, 2018

A big reason we have a food packaging problem to begin with is because people want to eat on the go – whether it's a drive-through or grab-n-go. Take a breath, slow down and dine in. Get your coffee “for here” or enjoy a home-cooked meal with friends and family and say goodbye to single-use packaging.

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Please post on April 19, 2018

Plastic straws are consistently one of the most littered plastic items, which means they end up in our waterways and are harmful to fish and wildlife. Say NO to straws! If you really need one, get a reusable straw and bring your own.

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Please post on April 19, 2018

To get a sense of the impact of using straws, check out this funny video from Straw Wars <https://vimeo.com/35707347>

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Please post on April 23, 2018

Heavily packaged foods are bad for the environment and they're usually unhealthy for

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you too. Buy foods that aren't heavily packaged, like fresh produce and bulk items.

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Please post on April 26, 2018

Need to grab lunch on the go? Bring your own container and utensils to cut down on "the other leftovers" from your take out meal. You can also bring your own container for leftovers when you eat at a restaurant - no more single-use "doggie bags"!

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Please post on April 30, 2018

You've worked so hard to bring reusable bags to the store, why fill them up with plastic produce bags? Bring your own fabric bags for produce and bulk items. Many companies make reusable produce bags from hemp, organic cotton and even recycled plastic.

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Please post on May 3, 2018

Let your friends and family know what you're doing and help them get involved. Write letters to companies that over-package and tell them you're concerned about this issue. You'll be surprised how powerful leading by example can be!

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Reference 1:

<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/what-you-can-do-about-marine-debris>

Reference 2:

<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/preventing-trash-source-0>

Reference 3:

<https://www.epa.gov/trash-free-waters/toxicological-threats-plastic>

Reference 4:

<https://www.cdc.gov/air/infographics.htm>

### Educational Outreach Material

#### Tonnage to Cubic Feet Conversion

EPA conversion sheet for volume and weight of recyclables:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-04/documents/volume\\_to\\_weight\\_conversion\\_factors\\_memorandum\\_04192016\\_508fnl.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-04/documents/volume_to_weight_conversion_factors_memorandum_04192016_508fnl.pdf)

Category Chosen:

“Containers (Plastic bottles, Aluminum cans, Steel cans, Glass bottles), Corrugated Containers and Paper- Commingled Recyclables”

111 pounds = 1 cubic yard = 27 cubic feet

and...

111 pounds x 18.01 = 2,000 pounds = 1 ton

therefore:

27 cubic feet x 18.02 = 486.5 cubic feet per ton

As Bellaire recycled 1650 tons in 2017, then the space (volume) of recycled waste is:

1650 x 486.5 cubic feet = 802,725 cubic feet recycled in 2017

Which is comparable to:

- 1) The reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial (901,000 cubic feet)
- 2) 4 Goodyear Blimps (203,000 cubic feet)
- 3) 10 Olympic swimming pools (88,000 cubic feet)

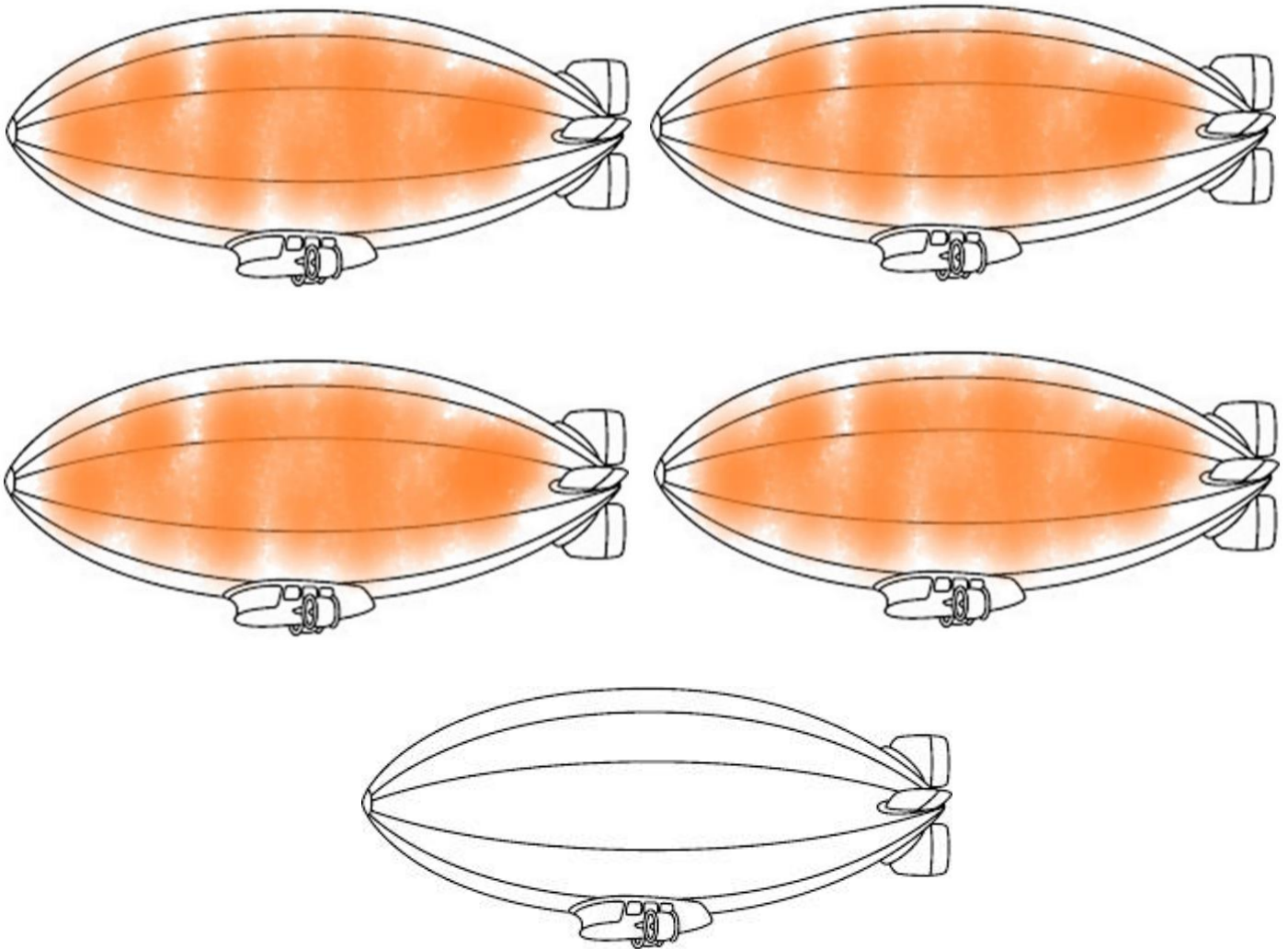
... as the Bellaire Water tower has a 600,000 gallon capacity (<http://s423139542.initial-website.com/past-projects/list-of-past-projects/elevated-water-tanks/>)... and 802,725 cubic feet = 6,004,800 gallons, then...

- 4) 10 Bellaire water towers

Sample flyer may include data as shown on next page:



**In 2017, Bellaire recycled 4 Goodyear Blimp's of material... let's recycle 20% more in 2018 and keep another Goodyear Blimp out of our landfills!**



***A message from the Environmental and Sustainability Board of Bellaire, Texas***

