

Recycling Task Force Meeting Minutes September 10, 2013

Present: Desmal Purcell, Dr Jimmy Wedincamp, Diana Wedincamp, David Steptoe, Matt Braswell (Emanuel County Code Officer), Robin Willis, Dr. Brianna Simmons, Mayor Charles Schwabe, Mary Smith

Mary Smith welcomed the group and noted several recycling articles circulated via e-mail among the group since the last meeting: Suella McCrimmon's article in *The Forest Blade* on the Swainsboro Recycling Center and an article sent by Desmal Purcell on recycling airport trash in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dianna Wedincamp then introduced the speakers: Christina Beslin, Vice President for CFS at Georgia Southern University, Gina Missini, an intern at GSU, and Kelly Collingsworth, Executive Director of Keep Bulloch Beautiful. Kelly Collingsworth then gave a presentation on Keep Bulloch Beautiful and its coordination with Georgia Southern University's recycling efforts.

Highlights of the presentation included invitation to the group to coordinate its recycling program with KBB. Even though Swainsboro's recycling center employs a part time director, the group was encouraged to join forces with the City to push the program. Key to a successful buy in by local government and community is to show how the program would save taxpayers money. Mayor Schwabe noted the cardboard recycling program was started for local industry, but the local industry is keeping the money earned. Matt Braswell noted that adding more drop off sites and dumpsters would help, but no funds exist to cover this. Kelly noted that the City would need to have one half of its residents sign up for the recycling program to get started.

The group was encouraged to take several initial steps (1) use special events recycling: KBB can provide free bins and a trailer; (2) shop local vendors to find best payment for cardboard waste as cardboard is a money maker; (3) begin public awareness campaign about College's current efforts on Facebook, College website; (4) send a survey to college and local communities to gauge interest, (5) get student clubs like Earth Club, SGA, etc. involved; (6) consider a "Junk to Funk" art show, fashion show or similar student activity with prizes (6) review resources at Georgia Recycling Coalition and consider joining for \$275 per year; (7) review grant sources for funding to begin programs: Coca Cola and Gulfstream are strong supporters.

Desmal Purcell reminded the group that Quentin Newcomer from UGA Costa Rica is speaking September 24th at Vision Series event in auditorium. The topic is sustainability of the UGA Costa Rica facility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.