Report meeting 1 burgerberaad schone stad

Meeting 1: getting to know each other and the topic

Monday, March 4, 2024, 17:30 – 21:30, Pakhuis de Zwijger in Amsterdam
Number of participants: 129

Agenda:

1. Opening by the chairperson
2. Introduction to the program
3. Getting acquainted with the theme
    a. Presentation by Wendy de Wild
    b. Interview with Stef le Fevre
4. Perception of cleanliness
5. Words from Alderman Rutger Groot-Wassink
6. Determining themes
7. Conclusion

1. Opening by the chairman of the day

Chairman Menno van Tartwijk opens the first meeting of the burgerberaad schone stad. He will guide all 6 meetings along with his colleagues from the EMMA bureau. This meeting focuses on getting to know each other and the topic.

Employees from the municipality of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and The Hague University of Applied Sciences are also present. They evaluate the burgerberaad and ask participants a few times about their experience. Participants who do not want to participate in the study are asked to inform us.

Menno then briefly explains what a burgerberaad is:

- A citizens' assembly is a group of randomly selected people who together provide advice on an issue.
- Participants learn more about the subject and are informed by (self-selected) experts.
- Participants are selected based on factors such as age, location, and gender to represent the city as well as possible in the citizens' assembly, representing Amsterdam on a smaller scale.

Participants in the burgerberaad are responsible for the process and the end result. In other words, participants come together to provide advice and vote on the advice that the burgerberaad hands over to the municipality. Because EMMA has a lot of experience organizing burgerberaden, they help and support the burgerberaad. If participants have ideas or proposals, we put them to a vote, and the group decides whether to implement them.

Menno once again emphasized that participants are welcome to ask any questions. The organization assists participants throughout the entire process. After each meeting, a report is shared on the participant platform. Also, a photo and video report are made during each meeting. These can also be found on the platform.

Menno shows the front page of Het Parool (March 4) and indicates that the outside world has great interest in the burgerberaad. Menno suggests voting on the involvement of the press next time. We will also make agreements on how the burgerberaad will come to an advice in a good way.

Menno explains the keycords. Red is for a facilitator, green for organization, blue for participants, and yellow for participants who do not want to be photographed. Do you want to be photographed or not at the next meetings? Let the organization know.

2. Introduction of the program

The first meeting focuses on getting to know each other and the topic. During the conversations with each other, there are some rules (see presentation). At the end of the meeting, participants vote on themes they find important. Experts on these themes will be invited to provide more information.

After each meeting, the citizens' assembly receives all presentations and reports. Participants do not have to (but may) take notes. However, there is a notebook for each participant. The notebook, paper, and name tags are made of recycled materials.

Participants hand in name tags and keycords after each meeting. Participants receive the name tags after the last meeting and can plant them in a pot (there are flower seeds in the paper).

In the hall, there is a map where you can indicate with a colored sticker whether you find your street or neighborhood clean or not. We repeat this during the last meeting to see if there is any change. A photo of this map can be found on the participant platform.

Confidential person
If participants feel unsafe or a boundary is crossed, they can contact Leontine Loudon. Her email address is l.loudon@amsterdam.nl. This information is also available on the participant platform.

3. Getting acquainted with the theme

To have a first introduction to the theme 'clean city,' two speakers have been invited.

Mini-lecture Wendy de Wild – chair of the NVRD

Menno invites Wendy de Wild to give a mini-lecture on municipal waste policy. Wendy de Wild is the chair of the Dutch Association for Waste and Cleaning Services (NVRD).

The NVRD is the industry association for waste and cleaning services for municipalities and social organizations. The NVRD is an expert in the field of municipal waste policy. Municipalities can turn to the NVRD with questions about waste collection and maintaining cleanliness in their municipality.

Wendy invites everyone to ask questions, especially when things are not clear. "It is important to have a conversation with each other and for the participants to understand everything well. The participants ultimately have to come up with advice, so don't hesitate to ask questions."

Wendy explains that waste is an extremely versatile topic.

- Waste is not only about keeping the city clean but also about climate, environment, and the production chain. What do we buy? How much? And do we throw it away too quickly?
- Items we often discard still have value. Some devices can still be used or repaired by others.

- We can also give value to waste by influencing people's behavior. After the introduction of a deposit on cans, for example, we see that fewer cans end up in the green in the city. But we also see that trash bins are opened, and in that way, more waste ends up on the streets.
- What has value for one person may not be the same for another. If something has value, people handle it differently.
- Giving value to waste also ties into the fact that we can often use waste as a raw material. This can be done better by separating waste. This works better when people are rewarded for it, for example, by adding a deposit to packaging. Because many people do not realize that much 'ordinary' waste can still be recycled. Only residual waste is worthless, and very little is truly residual waste.

Question from the audience: *what exactly is residual waste then*?

- Wendy: residual waste consists of things we cannot do anything with, things that cannot be used as a new raw material. In theory, much waste is not truly residual waste. For example, a diaper is residual waste, but paper, electronics, wood, textiles, styrofoam, and much more are not residual waste. But to do something practical with this in practice, it needs to be separated properly by throwing it into different bins or by going to the waste disposal site.

Question from the audience: *in the 80s, I had a small green bucket for green waste. Why don't we separate green waste in Amsterdam anymore*?

- In the majority of the Netherlands outside the four major cities, green waste is separated quite well. In the city, it is not that easy.

Interview with Stef le Fevre – Head of Waste and Raw Materials Directorate at the Municipality of Amsterdam

Menno introduces Stef le Fevre for a short interview. The interview mainly focused on waste in the Amsterdam context.

Question from the audience: *there used to be places to deposit used frying oil, but now it is even done at the waste point with residual waste. Why is this*?

- This is a great waste. Everyone who takes the trouble to separate it should be able to do this. But separating waste also costs a lot of money. Amsterdam spends 240 million per year on keeping the city clean.

Menno: *Wouldn't the problem be solved if we invest more money*?

- Yes, but I do see real challenges that cannot be solved by just more money. The question I want to ask you is about the city's waste regulations. Are we communicating them well? Are we reaching people? And how can we improve this?

Question from the audience: *What is a container adopter*?

- Container adopters are people who are concerned about a container. They clean the container, address people on waste behavior, and can call the municipality if it's full. In short, they take care of the containers.

Additional comment from the audience: *Container adopters also put bags next to the container inside it. This teaches people who leave the bags there not to exhibit good behavior. How do we deal with that?*

- This is also a good theme to discuss in the assembly. How do we reward people for good behavior?

Question from the audience: *We currently mix residual waste, plastic, and various cardboard in regular containers. Was it a decision of the municipality not to separate this?*

- Yes, this was a decision of the city government. We offer this waste to the Waste Energy Company (AEB). They then extract paper, cardboard, plastic, and other types of waste. This is called post-separation. However, we do not do this for all types of waste (such as glass and textiles).

4. Perception of cleanliness

To express the participants' perception of cleanliness, EMMA invited the art teacher Herman Weeda to help them. At each table, participants create a drawing about the beauty of the city. The question is: when is Amsterdam clean enough for you? Is it for the participants when there is not a speck of dirt on the street? Or is a bit of litter still acceptable? After a short drawing lesson from the art teacher, the participants started working on their drawings. The drawings can be found on the participant platform.

5. Words from Alderman Rutger Groot-Wassink

Menno introduces Alderman Rutger Groot-Wassink for a short interview. Rutger is responsible for, among other things, democratization.

- Rutger: Many civil servants work very hard to truly improve the city. That is important, but I think you will help us a lot with the problem we are facing now. I greatly appreciate the participation of all of you.
- Menno: What do you hope the citizens' assembly will achieve?
- Rutger: I hope that you can create beautiful advice together that truly helps the city. Of course, we need to see if the advice is feasible, but many people value a clean environment. I hope this citizens' assembly contributes to that.

Question from the audience: *What are the guidelines for our advice? When will the municipality take action?*

- Rutger: The advice must be legally, practically, and financially feasible. If the advice meets these criteria, we want to adopt the advice.

6. Determining themes

Participants have placed stickers together to determine which themes they find important and want to hear more about from experts at the next meeting. This input has been collected, and based on this, various experts will be invited to the next meeting. You will receive the results of this vote at a later time.

Through MentiMeter, participants could express their opinions on the evening:

Vandaag vond ik...
124 responses



7. Conclusion

Next meeting
Meeting 2 is on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Pakhuis de Zwijger. You will delve into the subject by hearing from experts. Before the meeting, you will receive more information about the program.