

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

11/14/2012



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
14 November, 2012

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on 14 November, 2012 at 1520 Rutherford Ln., Building 1, CCD Training Room, Austin, Texas.

Chair Rick Cofer called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Cofer, Cathy Gattuso, Faye Kazi, Brent Perdue, and Dave Sullivan

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Vera Labriola, Jessica King, Gretchen Kingham, Ourana Cacho, Woody Raine, Aiden Cohen, Sylba Loren, Ron Romero, Vidal Maldonado, Elizabeth Corey, Donald Hardee, Charlotte Huskey, Richard McHale, and Phil Tindall

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

No citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of 10/10/12 were approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Cathy Gattuso second on a 5-0-0 vote.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Action - 2013 ZWAC Meeting Calendar

In the proposed ZWAC 2013 Meeting Calendar, meeting dates were kept to the 2nd Wednesday of each month with the exception of March 2013. Due to the spring break, the March 2013 meeting was moved to March 6, 2013.

The proposed calendar was approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Brent Perdue second on a 5-0-0 vote.

b. Discussion and Action - ZWAC Rules of Procedure

Director Bob Gedert provided an overview of the proposed Rules of Procedure that consisted of three documents: Rules of Procedure, Conflict of Interest and Recusal Rules for the Board Members, and Types of Motions.

1 citizen spoke about the agenda item.

Robin Schneider, Texas Campaign for the Environment, asked the commission to postpone voting on the rules until the audit report is presented to the board. Ms. Schneider also spoke against the proposed rule not allowing citizen input on staff presentations, against the rule allowing the Commission Chair to limit the number of citizens addressing the board on an item, and against the rule not allowing time donations.

The proposal to postpone the vote on the ZWAC Rules of Procedure until the December 2012 meeting passed on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Cathy Gattuso second on a 5-0-0 vote.

c. Presentation - Composting Program Evaluation

Ms. Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, Principal, Sustainable Urban Solutions, gave a presentation about the findings and recommendations of the Composting Rebate Program and asked the Commission for support of continuing educational efforts promoting composting pilot programs.

Jessica King, Austin Resource Recovery Strategic Initiatives Division Manager, informed on the Austin Resource Recovery's composting program run by Ms. Sylba Lauren of Austin Resource Recovery. ARR has a composting program in place and is already working on many of Ms. Ochoa's suggestions. ARR is working toward a voucher system to allow low income families to participate in the composting program.

d. Discussion and Action - Purchase of 32-, 64-, and 96-gallon garbage and recycling carts

Phil Tindall, Austin Resource Recovery Contract Compliance Manager, presented a proposal to authorize award and execution of a contract through Texas Procurement and Support Services Cooperative Purchasing Program (TPASS) Term Contract 450-A2, administered by the State of Texas Controller of Public Accounts (CPA), with TOTER INCORPORATED, Statesville, NC, for the purchase of residential trash carts and recycling carts in an amount not to exceed \$4,366,828.38.

The proposal was approved on a Commissioner Brent Perdue motion, Commissioner Cathy Gattuso second on a 5-0-0 vote.

e. Discussion and Action - Purchase of 2,800 24-gallon garbage carts

Phil Tindall, ARR Contract Compliance Manager, presented a proposal to authorize award and execution of a contract with TOTER INCORPORATED, Statesville, NC, for the purchase of 2,800 24-gallon garbage carts in an amount not to exceed \$100,772. Toter Incorporated is the sole source provider for 24-gallon garbage carts.

The proposal was approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Faye Kazi second on a 5-0-0 vote.

f. Discussion and Action - Sustainable Food Policy Board Recommendation – Food Recovery

Cathy Gattuso presented a letter from the Sustainable Food Policy Board to the Mayor and City Council that asked Austin Resource Recovery to adopt policies that would help the City of Austin departments to implement the food hierarchy at City of Austin sponsored events.

Director Bob Gedert spoke in support of the letter's recommendations. However Austin Resource Recovery is not able to engage in some of the proposed activities to the extent the letter proposed.

The proposal to support of the letter was approved on a Commissioner Cathy Gattuso motion Commissioner Dave Sullivan second on a 5-0-0 vote.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Restaurant Composting Pilot

Woody Raine, Waste Diversion Planner Senior, provided a brief update on the Restaurant Composting Pilot Project.

1 citizen spoke about the agenda item.

Robin Schneider, Texas Campaign for the Environment, asked a question about whether any of the food was diverted into food recovery rather than compost and if the frequency of the trash pickup was affected by composting.

Aiden Cohen, Austin Resource Recovery Environmental Conservation Program Manager, stated that food diversion was not a part of the program. Frequency of pickup was a part of

the adjustment of the capacity requirements and was incorporated into the cost of the service delivery.

b. Director's Report

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: MRF Equipment Sale update, Zero Waste Inter-local Agreement with Travis County update, Zero Waste Events Ordinance update, Placement of Public-use Recycling Cans, Scheduled Council Items, F1 Race – ARR support activities, Staffing, Recycling Contract FY12 Annual Statistics Performances Measures, and Statistical Reports.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

URO Phase 2 Ordinance - December
Single Use Bag Ordinance Education/Outreach - December
FY2012 Accomplishments - December
Demographic Zone Analysis - December
Staff Presentation on Composting - December
Rules of Procedure - December
Bylaws Update - December
Subcommittees and Workgroups - January

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rick Cofer adjourned the meeting at 8: 45 p.m. without objection.