



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes October 8, 2014

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on October 8th, 2014, at 721 Barton Springs Road, Room 130, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Rock Cofer called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Cofer, Cathy Gattuso, Dave Sullivan, Faye Kazi (arrived 6:37), Jeff Paine (arrived 6:45) and Joaquin Mariel

Staff in attendance:

Bob Gedert, Jessica Frazier, Jessica King, Donald Hardee, Natacha Delusca, Richard McHale, Michael Sullivan, Tom Fulmer, Ron Romero, Gena McKinley, Marcus Elliot, Matthew Christianson, Jessica Frazier, Phil Tindall, Elizabeth Corey, Woody Raine, Sarah Puffer, Amy Slagle.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

One citizen signed up to speak during the opportunity for citizen communication.

Andrew Dobbs, TCFE, AZWA, spoke about mobile food truck composting and recycling, data on the Single Use Bag Ordinance (SUBO) and pursuing the formation of improved rules for the Universal Recycling ordinance. Mr. Dobbs handed the Commissioners a document regarding opportunities for data collection on SUBO.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of August 13, 2014 were adopted unanimously with no objection.

Item 4 was taken out of order.

4. New Business

a. Discussion and Action - Election of Officers

A vote for Chair Cofer to continue as ZWAC Chair was unanimously passed on a Commissioner Sullivan motion, Commissioner Cathy Gattuso second. A vote for Faye Kazi as ZWAC Co-Chair was unanimously passed on Commissioner Sullivan motion, Co-Chair Gattuso second.

b. Discussion and Action - Construction & Demolition Materials Recycling Ordinance – Intent Document

Three citizens signed up to speak on this item, although Eric Goff had to depart before he could speak.

Woody Raine, Austin Resource Recovery, presented a draft intent document and slide presentation detailing the process and input from stakeholders that led to the development of the ordinance's intentions.

Commissioners Mariel, Paine and Gattuso discussed the item with Mr. Raine. Commissioner Sullivan inquired about phases and timeline related to the ordinance. Gena McKinley, ARR, discussed a plan to return the issue to ZWAC in November to seek a favorable recommendation after further review of the intent document by Law Department, with a goal to send the item to City Council in December, 2014. Ms. McKinley said the item for Council vote in December will likely be a resolution requesting an amendment to the Land Development Code incorporating the intent of this ordinance.

Andrew Dobbs, TCFE, AZWA discussed the stakeholder process, expressed concern that Plano, TX has a higher diversion goal than the one being discussed in Austin, and requested that staff and ZWAC not rush the process on this item.

Adam Gregory, TDS, asked about clarifying the distinction between intent and ordinance intent, and the relationship with the Land Development Code (LDC) revision and timeline.

Jessica King, ARR, described the LDC amendment process which could take 3-6 months. Commissioner Paine asks for clarification on the path that code revision will take. Ms. King responds that only Planning Commission or City Council can amend the LDC and discusses the framework and methods around the process.

Bob Gedert, ARR, further described the timeline, concepts and processes that were undertaken since 2010 and that he was directed by Council to report back on this ordinance by end of 2014.

Ms. King discusses LDC code, Commission oversight and Intra-commission communication. Ms. King described the intent document presented here as a framework and asked if everything involved contains what ZWAC would like to address.

Mr. Gregory posed questions about related process and involvement of Land Development Code rewrite. Ms. King described the LDC edit and rewrite process and detailed Council decision-making procedures and options.

Commissioners and staff continued to discuss the item.

Chair Cofer proposed a timeline of diversion increases to get to zero waste regarding this proposed ordinance with full compliance by 2020, and noted that home sizes would incentivize compliance.

A motion was made by Co-Chair Gattuso, with Commissioner Mariel second, to adopt the draft C&D material recycling ordinance intent document with the following amendments:

Section 1.1 – Add single-family in 2020

Section 1.2 – Add all construction or renovation projects greater than 1000 sq ft by 2020

Section 2: Rewrite to express the scheme of:

50% & 2.5 lbs/sq ft to begin with

65% & 2.0 lbs/sq ft in 2017

75% & 1.0 lbs/sq ft in 2020

95% & 0.5 lbs/sq ft in 2030

The Commissioners discussed market variables, aspirational goal-setting, and influencing and creating marketplaces through ordinances. Chair Cofer acknowledged related pass-on costs, and requested another stakeholder meeting with discussion and review of the phasing schedule described here to be held prior to next ZWAC meeting. Ms. King agreed.

With all 6 commissioners present on dais, the motion passed unanimously.

c. Discussion and Action - Tire Recycling Agreement

One citizen signed up to speak.

Andrew Dobbs, TCEQ, AZWA, discussed carbon emissions goals and opportunities for emissions reform in the future, and asked the ZWAC to be careful to take that into consideration when discussing procurement of goods and services by City of Austin.

Phil Tindall, ARR, described the procurement process and requests a favorable execution of the agreement.

Commissioners and staff continued to discuss illegal dumping activity, bidding processes, and vendor locales impacting carbon footprint in relation to the item. Commissioner Sullivan asked the Commission and staff to think about the definition of “local” in relation to procurement decision making, and mentioned “regional” as a possibly more suitable term to consider in procurement decisions.

The recommendation to execute this agreement was approved on Commissioner Paine motion, Commissioner Sullivan second on a 5-1-0 vote, Commissioner Kazi opposed.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Items 3a and 3b were taken together.

- a. Discussion and Action - Private Hauler Program: Proposed Revisions to §15-6-41, §15-6-54, §15-6-56 and Administrative Rules**
- b. Discussion and Action - Compost Diversion & City Collection Services: Proposed Revisions to §15-6-11 and §15-6-13**

Two speakers signed up to speak on these agenda items.

Commissioner Mariel recused himself and was off dais for this topic.

Bob Gedert, ARR, showed a presentation and discussed zero waste goals, mission, materials management and stakeholder input.

Dr. Bob Thomspson, Multi-Unit Property Owner, spoke about dumpster service not being preferable for his properties, and said that a contraction of services offered by ARR would not be favorable to him. Dr. Thompson pointed out language in the redlined supporting document for item 3b with which he did not agree.

The Commission unanimously agreed to postpone action on both items until November 12 ZWAC meeting.

5. STAFF BREIFINGS

Director's Report - City Collection Services: Transformational Change, Mattress Recycling Update, HHW Hours/Capacities, Staff Hires and Promotions, Current and Upcoming Job Postings, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures

No citizens signed up to speak on this agenda item.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Cofer asked staff liaison to move all future items listed below on current agenda to next month's agenda:

STAR Ratings Update
Recycling Economic Development Program Update
Recycling Processing Contracts
Organics Pilot & City-Wide Expansion Report
USBCD/Yale Diversion Report

Chair Cofer also asked that the following items be added for future months agendas: Community Satisfaction Survey; Downtown Trash and Recycling Cans study; ARR Billing Reconciliation Update.

Chair Cofer adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m. without objection.