



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes May 9, 2018

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on May 9, 2018, in Council Chambers in City Hall in Austin, Texas. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information, please visit http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/97_1.htm.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Amanda Masino, Joshua Blaine, Rick Rojo, Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Kaiba White, Blythe Christoppher de Orive, Phil Howry. Absent are: Amanda Masino, Kendra Bones, Blythe Christoppher de Orive. Kaiba White arrived at 6:34 pm.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Donald Hardee, Brent Paige, Gabriel Gonzalez, Gena McKinley, Tony Davee, Ron Romero, Amy Slagle, Lori Scott, Tina Bui, and Marcus Gonzalez.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Item 1

No Citizens chose to speak.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 14, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Item 2

A motion to approve the April 11, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Chair Acuna. Commissioner Hoffman moved for approval, Commissioner Gattuso seconded on a 9-0-0, unanimous vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4a. Organics Diversion

Two Citizens chose to speak: Allen Schroeder and Andrew Dobbs.

Allen Schroeder wants the organics language to be rewritten to reflect the hierarchy of need, and food needs to be defined. Mr. Schroeder states that there is too much flexibility given to businesses; there should only be two options: set your food aside and compost. Mr. Schroeder also states that there needs to

be a definition for what “Food for human consumption is.” Commissioner Gattuso offered Mr. Schroeder to attend the Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee to voice his opinions on the Organics language should be changed, but they are currently in the last phase of organics. Chair Acuna proclaims that this issue will be addressed in the Master Plan review.

3b. FM-812 Landfill Letdown Repair

Tony Davee, ARR, states that this RCA is to repair the letdown from the Memorial Flood. Commissioner Howry asks once the landfill is done, will it be in compliance with TCEQ. Mr. Davee states that once the repairs are done, TCEQ will review the landfill and will review the letdown and pass it based on its compliance. Commissioner White asks if the new letdown will be more resistant to stronger floods, Mr. Davee replies that the new letdown will be reinforced better which should allow it be more resistant.

Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the letdown repair. Commissioner White motioned, Commissioner Gattuso seconded, and voted 8-0-0, unanimous. Absent were Commissioners Masino, Bones, and Christopher de Orive.

3a. Council Working Group – Landfill Criteria

Commissioner White provides the update. Commissioner White mentions there was a discussion regarding the formulas to be used by the landfills. The May 14th meeting is the last scheduled meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

5a. Director’s Report

Scrap Cart Contract Update, Alkyd/Oil Based Paint, Single-Use Straw Waste, URO Requirements: Organics Diversion. Commissioner Howry asks why revenue is more than tonnage. ARR Staff explains that there are differences of in the processing fees in the contracts, and the contracts will be compared at some point after the budget season is over to see exactly what the processing fees look like..

5b. 2017-2018 Budget Presentation

Presentation by Brent Paige, ARR. Commissioner Howry asks if a comparison has been done between the City of Austin and private collection hauler. Staff proclaims it has does an annual review, and an Affordability Consultant has been added as an FTE to seek a deeper dive into finding out rates of private collections. Mr. McHale, ARR, adds that the Affordability study will compare public and private sector similarities and differences to indicate where costs can be decreased.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Department performance review, Masterplan Review, Alkyd/Oil Based Paint Contract, Landfill Criteria Matrix, and Annual Internal Report.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Howry seconded by Commissioner Gattuso on a unanimous decision. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 7:42 pm to no objection (Unanimous).