



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes August 8, 2018

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on August 8, 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 6:34 pm.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Amanda Masino, Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Phil Howry, Josh Blaine, Blythe Christopher de Orive. Melissa Rothrock and Kaiba White attended the meeting at 6:36 pm. Commissioner Hoffman left the dais at 7:56 pm.

Absent are: Rick Rojo, Kendra Bones.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Richard McHale, Donald Hardee, Brent Paige, Gabriel Gonzalez, Gena McKinley, Ron Romero, Mike Turner, Shana Riviello, Jamie Germany, Lori Scott, Andy Dawson, Victoria Rieger, Maddie Morgan, Natalie Betts.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Item 1

One Citizen chose to speak: Robin Schneider, TCE.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 13, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Item 2

A motion to approve the June 13, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Chair Acuna. Commissioner Howry moved for approval, Commissioner Gattuso seconded on an 8-0-1 vote. Abstentions made by Commissioner Blaine.

3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Item 4

A motion to approve the June 20, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes was made by Chair Acuna. Commissioner White moved for approval, Commissioner Howry seconded on an 8-0-1. Abstentions made by Commissioner Blaine.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

6b. Customer Service Survey Presentation

Presentation made by Nicole Castañon, Austin Energy. Chair Acuna asks if this was part of the Citizen Survey, Ms. Castañon says this survey was ARR specific. Commissioner Masino asks how long it takes to complete the survey, and Ms. Castañon says it takes around eight minutes to complete. Commissioners ask how the survey sample size was gathered. Ms. Castañon says that a random sampling of the approximately 75% of customers who have an online account in the CC&B database were sent an invitation to participate in the survey. Commissioner Howry asks how survey pool can be expanded, Brian Kennedy, Austin Energy, commented that 400 responses to the survey is the minimum amount of households needed for a representative sample size for our customer base.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4a. Council Working Group – Landfill Update

Sam Angoori, ARR, updates the commission that staff is now developing a Landfill Criteria Matrix recommendation which is receiving comments from various stakeholders. After these comments, the matrix will be brought to ZWAC in September.

4b. Council Working – Progress Report on the Joint Task Force

Commissioner White says tiered recommendations will be provided, along with other options for Council. The recommendation will be a combination of revenue funding for Full-Time Employees (FTEs) and a slight increase in the Clean Community Fee with a two-year rollout. A full-update will be provided in the September ZWAC meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Discussion of recent Plastic Bag Ban Court Decision

Commissioner Masino proposes a resolution that reinforces the voluntary restriction of single-use plastics. Chair Acuna seconds the proposed resolution on an 8-1 vote with Commissioner Howry as a 'No' vote.

Sam Angoori, ARR, states that memos have been sent to the Mayor and the Council detailing ARR's plan, and consideration of developing a program that encourages retailers to minimize their use of plastic bags.

One citizen chose to speak on this item: Robin Schneider, TCE.

5b. September 12th Meeting

Gabriel Gonzalez, ARR, proposes September 6th at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers as a meeting date due to Council Budget Presentations the week of September 12th; the Commission votes 6-2 with Commissioners Blaine and Hoffman as 'No' votes.

5c. Tire Recycling RCA

Commissioner Howry asks how tires are currently being handled. Andy Dawson, ARR, says that tires are being shredded in Burnet for clay surfaces, track and field surfaces, and sealant surfaces. Commissioner Howry asks if this is an ongoing contract for tire shredding. Mr. Dawson says the current tire shredding is a short-term contract, but the RCA would make it a long-term. Commissioner Rothrock asks if the tires are collected by curbside collection and if they can be dropped off at household hazardous waste, Mr. Dawson says they are. The Commission approves the RCA on a 9-0 vote.

6. Staff Briefings

6c. FY 2018-2019 Budget Presentation

Presentation by Brent Paige, ARR. Chair Acuna asks how the budget could be changed to accommodate for the proposals in the Joint Task Force. Brent Paige, ARR, says that a budget amendment would have to be passed by Council for any amendments to take place. Commissioner Blaine asks about the budget ending balance. Mr. Paige says the ending balance was due to the unexpected savings in expenditures and reimbursements from FEMA and health insurance credits. Commissioner Howry asks about what the department does on State sales tax revenue, Mr. Paige says that sales tax revenue is handled by the Treasury Department.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Landfill Criteria Matrix, Joint Task Force Update.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Christopher de Orive seconded by Commissioner Howry on a unanimous decision. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 8:21 pm to no objection (Unanimous).