



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes July 10, 2019

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on July 10, 2019 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 6:35 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Amanda Masino, Melissa Rothrock, Jonathan Barona, Ian Steyaert.

Absent are: Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Kaiba White, Joshua Blaine.

Staff in attendance: Richard McHale, Tammie Williamson, Victoria Rieger, Gena McKinley, Andy Dawson, Donald Hardee, Shana Riviello, Scott Long, Rikki Weaver, Armelle Ouedraogo, Gabriel Gonzalez, Marcus Gonzalez, Jon Chan, Kim Hall, Lori Scott, Sam Gilbert.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Item 1

No citizens chose to speak.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE 4, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Gattuso moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Barona. Passed unanimously, 6-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. OLD BUSINESS

3a. Discussion and Action – 2019 ZWAC Review

Commissioner Masino proposed a friendly amendment: New ARR Director Position. Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Masino moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Steyaert. Passed unanimously, 6-0.

3b. Discussion and Action – Latex Paint Recycling RCA

Chair Acuna entertains a motion. Commissioner Rothrock moves for approval. Commissioner Gattuso seconds. Passed unanimously on a 6-0 vote.

3c. Discussion and Action – Landfill Criteria Matrix

Commissioner Masino said the proposed resolution is to revise the workforce diversity item in the Landfill Criteria Matrix (LCM). Commissioner Masino said a council working group gave four areas of concern, two of which were the community impact and social equity. Commissioner Masino mentioned that this item was collapsed into two single measures: workforce diversity and a living wage item. Commissioner Masino said the measures accounted for 25 points (15 points for having a diversity plan and 10 points for living wage). Commissioner Masino added that this measure did not accurately reflect what the Commissioners were deliberating so the LCM was voted against. Commissioner Masino said despite ZWAC's recommendation, the City of Austin is moving forward with the proposed LCM. Commissioner Masino is interested in strengthening the weaknesses of the LCM that were discussed in October.

Citizens signed up to speak on this topic: Marisa Perales, Lauren Ice, Andrew Dobbs, and Adam Gregory.

Marissa Perales, urges the Commission to take into account community impact and social equity. She does not think staff is using the right tools to measure the landfill matrix and needs to get the communities involved in the process. Ms. Perales said City Council and staff need to take into consideration equity and they need to change description of criteria 4.

Andrew Dobbs, urges the Commission to stand up to staff and to get the right things done on the landfill criteria. Mr. Dobbs suggested that they consider complaint history in the LCM.

Lauren Ice, said she lives a few miles from the landfill and she is thankful that they rejected the matrix last fall and is thankful the Commission is listening to the community. Ms. Ice is recommending that staff further review the LCM, and she agrees about rejecting the proposed process because the community was not involved.

Adam Gregory said that what staff provided is woefully inadequate. Mr. Gregory said the landfills are within one point of each other and that the Austin Community Landfill is the highest scoring landfill. Mr. Gregory is concerned that as it is currently written, it can obscure the Commission's decision making. Mr. Gregory recommended that they reinforce their position in October on the criteria and that any revised version of the matrix should come before ZWAC before moving forward. Mr. Gregory recommended that staff removes policy development from the procurement process and anti-lobbying rules.

Richard McHale, ARR, said he appreciated the input from Commissioner Masino and will evaluate on how those could be added in future iterations. Chair Acuna asked about the protest of the LCM and Mr. McHale said that the company was mailed a response so the issue has been resolved.

Commissioner Masino added a friendly amendment that restates that Council not adopt the LCM without significant revision and that future iterations be posted for two weeks for public stakeholder consideration, and that Council approval should only be sought after ZWAC's review. Commissioner Steyaert asked if words could be added about specific deficiencies. Commissioner Masino said there are some words that are there but more words can be added if needed. Commissioner Gattuso asked if the resolution addressed complaint history, and Commissioner Masino said it could be added.

Chair Acuna entertains a motion. Commissioner Steyaert moves for approval. Commissioner Rothrock seconds. Vote: 6-0, passed unanimously.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

4b. ARR Customer Survey Results – Presentation by ARR Staff

Presentation by Nicole Castanon, Austin Energy.

Commissioner Gattuso asked if there was a difference between resident and multi-family. Nicole said there were more single-family homes participating than multi-family so there wouldn't be a good sample size to see the difference. Commissioner Gattuso asked why. Ms. Castanon said it is completely random.

Commissioner Barona asked about what the national benchmark for street sweeping was. Ms. Castanon said that the only data available was from a city that already had complaints; Nicole added that the gap analysis will help in understanding that information.

Gerry asked if it was possible to extend the survey to multi-family residents. Liz Jambor, Austin Energy, said that if multi-family residents are in their database that and they are an ARR customer than they can. A citizen-wide survey could be given for subjects like Zero Waste.

Commissioner Masino asked what percentage of Austin Energy customer completed the survey. Ms. Castanon said 800 of the 220,000 customers completed the survey. Commissioner Masino asked how many people have had the survey multiple times. Nicole said 13% have received the presentation multiple times, but only 1% have taken the survey again. Commissioner Masino asked about the Spanish speakers. Ms. Castanon said they didn't take the survey in Spanish (there are instructions to choose a language).

Commissioner Rothrock asked about the textile services pick-up wasn't in the survey. Nicole said it wasn't available this year, and last year it was recorded as a low use service. Commissioner Rothrock asked if the positive feedback is provided to the programs. Commissioner Rothrock asked if ARR has a YouTube channel. Gena McKinley, ARR, said that the ARR YouTube videos are posted on the City of Austin's YouTube channel because the City's YouTube channel has more followers. Commissioner Rothrock asked if the ARR videos are tagged as ARR. Gena McKinley, said she would have to google it to find out.

4a. Director's Report: Solicitations Update, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures

Richard McHale, ARR, announced the solicitation for the dumpster collection and cleaning service for the Central Business District (CBD) will be changed to an RFI. Mr. McHale said that there was press release for expanding curbside composting. Mr. McHale asked that the Commissioners become block leaders for their districts. Commissioner Masino asked if students can be block leaders. Mr. McHale said there isn't a requirement of being a resident of Austin so they could become a block leader if they wanted.

Commissioner Barona asked if block leaders are incentivized to participate. Mr. McHale said that it is strictly for volunteering. Mr. McHale talked about open houses for composting being open to the public.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

On-call bulk report presentation, URO committee update, Budget Process Update.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Barona, seconded by Commissioner Gattuso on a unanimous decision. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 7:52 pm to no objection (Unanimous).