



## **Zero Waste Advisory Commission**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes August 14, 2019**

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on August 14, 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](http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/97_1.htm).

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Melissa Rothrock, Jonathan Barona, Ian Steyaert, Kaiba White.

**Absent are:** Amanda Masino, Joshua Blaine.

**Staff in attendance:** Richard McHale, Tammie Williamson, Victoria Rieger, Scott Long, Brent Paige, Carole Reynolds, Roland Vargas, Richard Avila, Amy Slagle, Andy Dawson, Gabriel Gonzalez, Marcus Gonzalez, Lori Scott.

### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Item 1

Adam Gregory and Andrew Dobbs chose to speak.

### **4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

#### **4b. On-Call Bulk Report Presentation**

Presentation by Amy Slagle. Commissioner White questioned the carbon footprint reduction. Ms. Slagle said ARR provided data to the Office of Sustainability that they used the data to project how many metric tons were saved by having less fleet. Commissioner White asked why there was less fleet. Ms. Slagle responded that the on-call program uses a point-to-point routing system which decreased the fleet from 15 to 10. Commissioner White asked what makes up the diversion still going to the landfill. Ms. Slagle said that mattresses, lumber, and rigid plastics make up most of the diversion. Commissioner White asked what was needed to recycle rigid plastics. Ms. Slagle said that more staff would be needed.

Commissioner Gattuso asked if items that weren't listed would still be picked up. Ms. Slagle said yes, they would still be picked up. Commissioner Gattuso asked what kind of rigid plastics are getting put out. Ms. Slagle said that it is typically kiddie pools that are set out. Commissioner Gattuso asked for clarification regarding the carbon footprint. Ms. Slagle said that since not every street has to be checked, there are less miles driven. Commissioner Barona asked if someone has used the program more than 3 times. Ms. Slagle said it has happened once. Commissioner Steyaert asked about the survey results. Ms.

Slagle said that 53% participants preferred the on-call bulk than the traditional bulk pickup which was at 33%. Commissioner Steyaert asked about what comments were said. Ms. Slagle said that most were positive; the program allowed flexibility. Chair Acuna said that the point-to-point collection is very important for cost savings and for the future.

## **2. APPROVAL OF July 10, 2019 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

This item was tabled. Adam Gregory chose to speak on this item; Mr. Gregory thanked the Commissioners for having a strong position on the Landfill Criteria Matrix.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **3a. Discussion and Action – URO Sub-Committee Update**

Commissioner Gattuso said that the only change to last month's resolution will be to change the date from September 2019 to September 2020. Commissioner White asked for clarification that it was October 1 of 2020; Commissioner Gattuso agreed. Commissioner White added that discussions have been held regarding composting and it's something that could be talked about in future meetings. Commissioner Gattuso said that a meeting should be held next month to talk about that subject. Andrew Dobbs chose to speak on this item. Mr. Dobbs said there was a solid consensus about the proposal. Mr. Dobbs said that this will help solve the capacity issue at apartment complexes. Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Gattuso proposed a motion. Seconded by Commissioner White. Passed unanimously, 6-0.

#### **3b. Discussion and Action – C&D Sub-Committee Member Appointee**

This item was tabled.

#### **3c. Discussion and Action – September 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Commissioners agreed to reschedule the September 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### **3d. Discussion and Action – FY20 Budget Review**

Presentation by Victoria Rieger. Commissioner White asked for elaboration on what expenses were on base level services. Ms. Rieger said meetings were held across the department and realignment was held based on time spent. Commissioner White asked if less time was being allocated to clean community efforts. Brent Paige, ARR, said that allocation of indirect expenses has been broken down more than in the past. Commissioner White asked if people were to call in more, than would the numbers change? Mr. Paige said that the current numbers will be held steady for the next few years but the implementation for the VTFU could change the numbers; but an in-depth analysis will be held every five years.

Commissioner White said she's concerned about the reduction of the budget. Mr. Paige said that there is no reduction, just how the money is allocated is being changed. Commissioner Barona asked how the reduction in the clean community fee will affect the URO and other Zero Waste initiatives. Mr. Paige said there will be no reduction in clean community fee services. Commissioner Barona asked how the fee

change impacts new programs or new initiatives. Mr. Paige said with current staffing levels, they will be working at full capacity. Commissioner Rothrock asked about residential customers asking for an additional recycling cart. Ms. Rieger said that it is free. Commissioner Rothrock asked if that is something that might be charged for. Mr. Paige said that those expenses are covered in the base fee.

Chair Acuna questioned if the current budget is sustainable. Chair Acuna asked about offsetting revenues. Mr. Paige said that when an analysis took place, the interest revenue offsets the expenses for the base customers. Commissioner Barona asked if the ending balance is going to go down. Mr. Paige said that it is based off a projection of 2020. Commissioner White asked about the price per gallon of trash carts. Commissioner White said it was 16 cents per gallon for 24 through 64-gallon carts. Mr. Paige said it was 30 cents for a 96-gallon cart, \$28.80 for a 96-gallon cart, \$10.25 for 64-gallon cart, and \$5.10 for a 32-gallon cart, and \$3.85 for a 24-gallon cart. Commissioner White asked if any consideration was given to increasing the price of the 96-gallon cart. Mr. Paige said yes it was discussed and there is an increase in the five-year forecast, but more consideration must be given before increasing prices. Commissioner White asked about the clean community fee for commercial customers. Mr. Paige said it is currently \$16.50 which will be reduced by 65 cents. Commissioner Steyaert asked about the range of projections based off the recycling revenue. Mr. Paige said that the potential for market fluctuations are researched and the current number is conservative based on that research.

#### **4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

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

Richard McHale said a meet-and-greet was held with the finalist for the Director position. Chair Acuna said that the meeting was engaging.

##### **4c. FY20 Budget Update**

Presentation by Victoria Rieger.

#### **5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Organics Processing RCA, PARD Recycling 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 8:15 pm to no objection (Unanimous).