



Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC)

Annual Internal Review

This report covers the period of 8/17/2019 to 12/31/2020

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code 2-1-182) is:

The commission is empowered to review and analyze the policies and resources relating to material discard management in the city, and to advise the city council on materials management policies and resources. The commission shall assist the city council to ensure its residents that the City provides both an economical and environmentally safe system of waste reduction, resource recovery, and disposal. The commission may assist the city council to protect the public health and quality of the environment through efficient collection, recycling, composting, and disposal of municipal solid waste.

August 7th, 2019 Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee Meeting

1. Commissioner Gattuso opened the meeting for discussion of the proposed revision of the Administrative Rules regarding the multifamily capacity requirements of the Universal Recycling Ordinance. Stakeholders discussed issues related to multifamily recycling including contamination, space constraints, and illegal dumping. Stakeholders discussed the need for education for residents and the need to continue the use of waivers in some cases. Commissioner Barona made a motion to support the adoption of the staff proposed amendments to the administrative rules. Seconded by Commissioner White. Committee members voted in favor of the motion 3-0.

August 14th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 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.

September 4th, 2019 Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 4a. Discussion and Action – Multi-Family Recycling Capacity Administrative Rule Amendments RCA Commissioner Gattuso said she had no edits and it was exactly what was recommended. Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Gattuso moves for approval. Commissioner Barona seconds. Passed unanimously, 7-0.
- 4b. Discussion and Action – Organics Processing RCA Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Barona moves for approval. Seconded by Commissioner White. Passed unanimously, 7-0.
- 4c. Discussion and Action – FY20 Proposed Budget Recommendation Vote Commissioner White had a question regarding the review of the clean community fee. Brent Paige, ARR, said that a cost of service analysis is done every year, but a major review is done every 3 to 5 years. Commissioner White asked if there were increased services, what would it take to increase the clean community fee back up to be able to accommodate additional services? Mr. Paige said that after ARR proposes the rates, City Council or the City Manager office could add more services to ARR’s proposed rates. If something came up in the mid-year budget cycle that Council felt it fell within ARR’s purview, then a budget amendment would occur; or the fee schedule could be amended to accommodate for new rates as well. Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Steyaert moves for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Gattuso. Passed unanimously, 7-0.

September 11th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- **Canceled**

October 9th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 3a. Discussion and Action – Hazardous Waste RCA Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Rothrock moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Barona. Passed on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Blaine was absent.
- 3b. Discussion and Action – Temporary Fencing Services RCA Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Masino moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Steyaert. Passed unanimously 8-0. Commissioner Blaine was absent.
- 3c. Discussion and Action – C&D Impact Study Gena McKinley, ARR, offered to give a presentation to the Commissioners providing updates for the Commissioners. Commissioners decided to table this item until the November meeting.

November 13th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- **Canceled**

November 21st, 2019 Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 3a. Discussion and Action – Impact of Ordinance Change Under City of Austin Extraterritorial Boundary Revision This item was tabled until January
- 4a. Discussion and Action – Proposed 2020 ZWAC Calendar Dates Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner White moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Rothrock. Passed on a 6-0 vote.
- 4c. Discussion and Action – Create a Working Group to Discuss and Assist with the Development and Implementation of Composting at Multifamily Properties Commissioners Rothrock, Gattuso, White, Masino, and Barona volunteered for the Composting Multifamily Working Group. Chair Acuna moved for approval of the Composting Multifamily Working Group. Seconded by Commissioner White. Motion passed on a 6-0 vote.
- 4b. Discussion and Action – Proposed Travis County Facility Expansion Chair Acuna proposed a recommendation on the proposed Travis County Facility Expansion and the challenges posed to aviation. Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Gattuso moved to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Steyaert seconded. Commissioner Masino proposed a friendly amendment to change: “...varmint and birds of prey...” to “...to attract birds that could present a hazard to air travel...”. The recommendation passed on a 6-0 vote.

January 8th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 4a. Discussion and Action – Downtown Trash and Recycling Receptacles RCA
Marcus Gonzalez, ARR, presented the item. Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Masino asked how many were going to be ordered. Mr. Gonzalez said 50 [receptacles] a year for three years. Commissioner Masino moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Barden. The item passed on a 6-0 vote.

February 12th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

February 19th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 4a. Discussion and Action – RCA for Residential Dumpster Service Ron Romero, ARR Division Manager, taking the item to Council April 9, 2020. The contract for the initial term of 36 months, two 12-mo renewal options, to be awarded to Texas Disposal Systems, for dumpster services for multi-family complexes across the city. Collection, transportation, maintenance, and cleanup were provided. Regarding customer information, the last estimate was 1,100 residences. Property ownership is private, 4-plex units. The contract was developed for customer service and department safety. Assistant Director McHale shared that the city serves up to four units in a building. Commissioner Barona requested a reevaluation of safety. ARR is piloting carts in one area, which requires education and monitoring, and an estimated 3-months to return to Commission. The cost of Service is expected to average ~\$300k/ year. There will be trash only at this time, with future recycling and organics education. The initial term 36 months with two year-extensions and no minimum requirement. Customers pay a \$20 per month fee, which does fully cover the service. [7:14: Lisa Barden left] Discussion suspended without a quorum. [Melissa Rothrock arrives at 7:42] Discussion continues. Speaker: Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, provided a discussion and overview of the Landfill Criteria Matrix, and requests denial of item. Regarding Council, recommend approval with rejection from Council on the Landfill Criteria Matrix. Assistant Director McHale provides that the Commission may approve and move forward, and if another contract came up, the Commission could then deny. Commissioner Barona would like clarity on if the Commission can approve the contract without the affirmation of the Landfill Criteria Matrix, to which Assistant Director Williamson provides that they may approve the contract with a motion of disapproving Landfill Criteria Matrix language. Commissioner Masino moves to approve the contract while affirming the rejection of Landfill Criteria Matrix, and recommending Council review of Landfill Criteria Matrix, Barona seconds. Unanimous with Commission Chair Acuna recusing.

- 4b. Discussion and Action – RCA for Fleet Vehicle Purchase Victoria Rieger, ARR Division Manager, has an RCA before Council in March, a multi-year contract for Fleet Services for vehicles and equipment citywide. It is a \$289m contract, with an ARR portion of \$70.5m. Purchase and replacement of vehicles, trailers, and equipment. Rick Harland, Deputy Officer for Fleet Vehicle Services indicated ARR has CNG, propane, etc. Electric trucks are economically unreasonable with limited battery range. There is a Volkswagen grant savings of \$1.4m set aside to capture one electric truck as a pilot. New York and Los Angeles are piloting electric truck programs. City piloting light-duty electric vehicles. The electric fleet is a priority Director Snipes; a transfer facility may reduce mileage enough to accommodate electric trucks. Commission Chair Acuna made a motion, Commissioner White approved, Commissioner Barona seconded, passed unanimously.
- 4d. Discussion and Action- Review of ARR Role in assisting with Homeless Encampment Cleanup and overall City of Austin Litter Abatement
- 4e. Discussion and Action – Review of the Clean Community Fee and its Impact and Sustainability in Meeting Austin’s growing Litter and Sanitation Challenges. Commission Chair Acuna requests to combine items
- 4d and 4e 4d/ 4e: The Clean Community Fee has not been addressed in five years, and the organic component may balance new needs. In the next meeting, ARR Finance can look at income statements for a snapshot of today's with what-if scenarios. Commissioner White has introduced a resolution for an abatement challenge, and requests feedback on cleaning up of camps in light of subsequent returns. Director Snipes provided that the City's approach to cleanups is to focus on trash, debris, and litter, not moving people, unless in a hazard area or there is a danger presented. Regarding coordinating with the State, Director Snipes shared that TxDOT has 17 dedicated sites weekly and is offering a sanctioned site on 183. The State is following similar guidelines for posting and provides Be Safe, Be Seen bags. Pets are an item of discussion. Commissioner White presents a Resolution on plastic pollution and suggests the next budget provides adequate funding identified for this effort, possibly the Clean Community Fee. Chair Acuna leads a discussion on funding mechanisms and would like a breakdown of the projected budget and cost of services. The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days (48 hours) before the meeting date. Please call Teresa Dixon in the Austin Resource Recovery Department, at 512-974-1987, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Zero Waste Advisory Commission, please contact Teresa Dixon at 512- 974-1987. Commissioner Masino moves approval, Commissioner Gattuso seconds, unanimous vote with Commissioner Barden away from the dais.

- 4a. Discussion and Action – RCA for Residential Dumpster Service Commissioner Masino moves to approve contract while affirming the rejection of Landfill Criteria Matrix, and recommending Council review of Landfill Criteria Matrix, Barona seconds. Unanimous with Commission Chair Acuna recusing.
- 4b. Discussion and Action – RCA for Fleet Vehicle Purchase Commission Chair Acuna made a motion, Commissioner White approved, Commissioner Barona seconded, passed unanimously.
- 4c. Discussion and Action – RCA for Waste Collection at City Facilities Commissioner Gattuso entertained a motion, Commissioner Barona moved to reject, Commissioner Steyeart seconded, Unanimous rejection. Commission Chair Acuna recused.

April 8th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

May 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

May 15th, 2020 Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a. Discussion and Action—ZWAC Officer Election of 2020 officers Chair Acuna thanked Commissioner Gattuso for being Vice-Chair and the entire Commission for support. Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Masino moved for approval of Commissioner Gerry Acuna as Chair. Seconded Commissioner Gattuso Chair Acuna stepped back to allow Commissioners to vote. Vice-Chair Gattuso to over for voting. Motion approved Unanimously Chair Acuna motioned and nominated Commissioner Gattuso to remain as Vice-Chair. Seconded by Commissioner Kaiba White. Item approved Unanimous
- 2b. Discussion and Action-Collections in the Central Business District RCA Commissioner White requests to postpone the item until an answer is provided to the question. Chair Acuna acknowledges the request and asks to defer the item.
- 2c. Discussion and Action-Budget Presentation:

June 10th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

June 12th, 2020 Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a. Master Plan Update B
- 2b. Economic Impact Study on Construction and Demolition Diversion Requirements Presentation

July 8th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

July 17th, 2020 Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a Discussion and Action – Collection services for City Facilities RCA Chair Gerry Acuna entertained a motion for approval of item 2a. Commissioner Amanda made the first motion for approval. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Jonathan Barona. Item 2a. Collection services for City Facilities RCA passed unanimously on a 6-0-1 vote
- 2b Discussion and Action – Overpass and under bridge clean-up services RCA Chair Gerry Acuna entertained a motion for approval of item 2a. Commissioner Kaiba White made the first motion for approval. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Ian Steyaert. Item 2b. Overpass and under bridge clean-up services RCA passed unanimously on a 6-0-1 vote
- 2c. Update on the FY 21 Proposed Budget Presentation
- 2d. Update on the Universal Recycling Ordinance Multi-Family Recycling Capacity Increase

August 12th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a Discussion and Action – Office of Sustainability Community Climate Plan 2020 Revision

September 9th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- Canceled

October 14th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a Discussion and Action – Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) FY19 Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey
- 2b. Discussion and Action – ARR's role in the Community Climate Plan
- 2c. Discussion and Action: ARR's Role in the Homeless Encampment Clean-up
- 2d. Discussion and Action: ARR's role in the Waterway Watershed Protection Program
- 2e. Discussion and Action: 2020-2021 ZWAC Meeting Schedule. Commission Lisa Barden moves to approve 2020-2021 ZWAC meeting schedule Point of Clarification the schedule includes November 10th as Veterans day is on November 11th Motion 2nd by Ian Steyaert Motion passed unanimously

November 18th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a Discussion and Action – Truck Rental Ratification The ZWAC Commission chose to defer item 2a. due to lack of time to review before the meeting.
- 2b. Discussion and Action—Non-Curbside Recycling Contract Andy Dawson Diversion Facilities Assistant Division manager mentions this new contract would replace the contract for recycling services at the recycle and reuse drop-off center and combine in the in-house recycling services for city facilities (two separate contracts would be combined into one). The ZWAC Commission chose to defer Discussion and Action on item 2b. due to lack of time to review before the meeting.
- 2c. Discussion and Action- Safely Reducing Barriers to Charitable Feeding: APH Response to Resolution 20200729-087 CIUR 2290 Presentation
- 2d. Discussion and Action: Update on the rollout of Organic Collection at Multi-family Properties

December 17th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission

- 2a Discussion and Action – Truck Rental Ratification Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the Truck Rental Ratification RCA. Commissioner Jonathan Barona made the first motion for approval of the RCA. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Cathy Guttuso. Item passed Unanimously
- 2b. Discussion and Action—Non-Curbside Recycling Contract Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the Non-Curbside Recycling Contract RCA. Commissioner Cathy Guttuso made the first motion for approval of the RCA. B second motion was provided by Commissioner Jonathan Barona. Item passed Unanimously
- 3a. Discussion and Action – ARR Pandemic Response
- 3b. Discussion and Action- Citywide Diversion Rate
- 3c. Discussion and Action: Green Fleet -Ken Snipes