

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 02/10/2010



Solid Waste Advisory Commission
Minutes

Regular Meeting
10 February, 2010

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on 10 February, 2010 at 301 West 2nd Street, Council Chambers Room in Austin, Texas.

Chair Gerry Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Gerry Acuna, Rick Cofer, J.D. Porter, Fayez Kazi, Brent Perdue, Bob Schafer, Maydelle Fason

Staff in Attendance:

Annette Martinez, Tammie Williamson, Jessica King, Bob Gedert, David Smythe-Macaulay, San Angoori, Tamara Kurtz, Richard McHale, Donald Hardee, Vidal Maldonado, Shirley Gillespie, Amy Slagle

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Citizen Ron Torrey expressed his displeasure with the Private Hauler License Fee Sub-Committee not meeting in a timely manner.

Citizen Robin Schneider welcomed new Solid Waste Services Director Bob Gedert to the City of Austin.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of 01/13/10 were approved on a Commissioner Bob Schafer motion, Commissioner Maydelle Fason second on a 6-0-1 vote. Commissioner Fayez Kazi abstained.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion – Solid Waste Management District Sub-Committee Update

The Sub-Committee has complete conference calls to various districts around the country and gathering data. They are now in the process of drafting a report that will be taken to the committee at their next meeting, with the intention of presenting it to SWAC at the March 10, 2010 meeting.

b. Discussion – Recycling Ordinance Sub-Committee Update

The Committee has created a preliminary recommendation that will be presented to SWAC at the March 10, 2010 meeting. COA staff is currently reviewing the recommendations.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion – Smaller Garbage Bin Option

Commission Chair Acuna asked staff to look into the option of offering a smaller garbage cart size and/or the possibility of collecting garbage less frequently. Commissioner Porter added his request for staff to investigate the option of an insert rather than a new cart size. Commission Chair allowed Citizen Paul Robbins to speak. Mr. Robbins thanked the Commission for putting this item on the agenda for discussion, since he has been attempting to address this issue since 1981.

b. Discussion – Include Recycled Content Specification for SWS Purchasing

The Commission asked if staff could include information regarding recycling numbers on future RCAs, when applicable.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

b. Discussion and Action – Greenstar RCA

Commission Co-Chair allowed citizens Ryan Hobbs and Bob Gregory to speak on this item.

Mr. Hobbs with Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) presented a hand out to the Commissioners. He discussed three points/issues regarding the proposed contract extension between the City of Austin and Greenstar.

- (1) The loose definition of newspaper (grade #6 and grade #8); which TDS feels allows Greenstar enough flexibility to totally eliminate the estimated savings that are associated with lower processing fees.
- (2) Pass due balances (fees) and how they will be handled. TDS feels Council did not authorize staff to include payments to Greenstar beyond the first year's fees.
- (3) Regarding the audit section of the contract. The contract does provide a mechanism that allows the City to conduct a financial audit; however there has been much talk about the mix of commodities the City of Austin is generating. To his knowledge an audit has never been done and if an audit was done, it would yield different numbers in which to calculate payments.

It is TDS position of that Council should not amend the contract and should reject any amendment(s) of this contract.

Mr. Gregory presented a handout to the Commissioners and discussed TDS proposal of a short term contract in lieu of the Greenstar contract extension. TDS is asking SWAC not to recommend the approval for the extension and the amendments to the Greenstar contract.

- (1) The primary issue of concern deals with the portion that guarantees the volume of recyclables. According to Mr. Hobbs, depending on how you read the (current) contract, it is arguably that the City does not have to send any or up to 66% of materials to Greenstar. This leaves a portion that could go to someone else. The contract extension guarantees that all the volume goes to Greenstar through March of 2011 and 50% thereafter for the duration.
- (2) The current contract has two six-month extension options attached to it and therefore could expire in September 2011. This is adequate time for staff to evaluate the MRF proposals and make a recommendation.
- (3) From the TDS proposal, which is very broad, from composting to landfill, there is a short term and long term option for the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). TDS is opening a MRF and will build it

regardless of what the City does on the Greenstar contract.

The motion to postpone this item, with the provision that if the item does go back to Council before the next SWAC meeting, SWAC will hold a special called meeting, was approved on a Commissioner JD Porter motion, Commissioner Maydelle Fason second on a 5-0-2 vote. Commissioners Gerry Acuna and Bob Schafer recused themselves for this item due to a conflict of interest and left the dais.

c. Discussion and Action – Master Plan RCA

Solid Waste Services Sustainability Administrator Jessica King and Public Works Project Manager David Smythe-Macaulay presented a Power Point presentation on the Master Plan.

The motion to authorize execution of a professional services agreement with HDR ENGINEERING, INC. (NON MBE/WBE, 65.4%), Austin, TX, for planning services for the Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$1,099,014.00 plus a \$110,000.00 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,209,014.00, was approved on a Commissioner Rick Cofer motion, Commissioner Faye Kazi second on a 6-0-1 vote. Commissioner Bob Schafer recused himself for this item due to a conflict of interest and left the dais.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Greenstar Update, specifically an audit on composition of materials
Recycling Ordinance Proposal
Hauler License Fee Sub-Committee
Director Report/Dept. Statistics/Metrics/Zero Waste Report
Staff research smaller garbage bin option
Discuss COA Sustainability Officer Position
Climate Change and Zero Waste Issue Discussion (possibly a presentation)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gerry Acuna adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m. without objection.