

**BYLAWS OF THE  
Solid Waste Advisory Commission**

**ARTICLE 1. NAME.**

The name of the board is **Solid Waste Advisory Commission.**

**ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**

The commission shall provide quarterly reports to the city council. The commission is empowered to review and analyze the policies and resources relating to solid waste management in the city and advise the city council on solid waste management policies and resources. The commission shall provide assistance to the city council to ensure its citizens that the City provides an economical and environmentally safe system of waste reduction, recovery and disposal. The commission shall act as an advisory body to the city council and shall review programs and make recommendations regarding:

- 1) the City's waste stream;
- 2) minimization of environmental impacts due to waste disposal; and
- 3) implementation of programs that achieve the city's goals and objectives relating to solid waste management, including recycling, composting, alternative methods of waste disposal and garbage collection.

The commission shall hold public hearings, initiate studies, review and make reports and recommendations to the city council, or other appropriate boards and commission, concerning:

- 1) solid waste capital improvement project proposals;
- 2) solid waste bond programs;
- 3) hazardous waste materials management;
- 4) waste-stream planning and reduction of the waste-stream;
- 5) citizens' evaluation on solid waste matters;
- 6) incentives for participation in waste recovery program;
- 7) air quality as it relates to or is affected by waste disposal;
- 8) alternative methods of waste disposal;
- 9) City's annual budget proposal for solid waste services, transportation and public services department;
- 10) cost effectiveness and financial impact of solid waste programs;
- 11) proposed and existing solid waste facilities within the city and outside the city if they have potential to affect the city;
- 12) solid waste collection and disposal, and solid waste programs which have the potential to affect the city and make recommendations to the city council;
- 13) effectiveness of solid waste programs on an annual basis;
- 14) inventory of the City's solid waste systems;
- 15) use or disposition of equipment purchased for the resource recovery plant;

- 16) contractual obligations relating to the resource recovery plant; and
- 17) creation of a diversified short and long term solid waste management strategy pending federal legislation.

The commission may also exercise the following oversight functions:

- 1) work with staff to develop programs to implement the commission's duties and responsibilities;
- 2) evaluate the economic feasibility and impacts of its goals and objectives programs;
- 3) coordinate with the staff for utilization of staff time and resources for liaison activities with the commission;
- 4) make policy and budget recommendations to the city council relating to solid waste program implementation;
- 5) review waste disposal program implementation strategies as they are developed;
- 6) review staff progress toward successful implementation of solid waste management on a periodic basis;
- 7) review staff reports and studies relating to commission programs, including economic and rate impacts and environmental effects;
- 8) review the results from the monitoring of solid waste programs and facilities; and
- 9) review activities of waste-to-energy advisory task force.

The commission shall maintain and promote close cooperation and open communication between the city council, other City boards, commissions, and committees, City departments and individuals, institutions and agencies concerned with the policies and procedures and operation of the Solid Waste Services Department and the maintenance and construction of the solid waste disposal facilities so that all similar activities in the City may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

### **ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

- (A) The board is composed of seven members appointed by the city council.
- (B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.
- (C) Board members serve for a term of three years beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> on the year of appointment.
- (D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity except through the action of the board.
- (E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular meetings in a twelve month time period automatically vacates the member's position. This does not apply to an absence due to illness or injury if the member notifies the staff liaison of the reason for the absence no later than the next meeting of the board.

- (F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet which indicates that the member does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.
- (G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk's office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement.

#### **ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS.**

- (A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair and a vice-chair.
- (B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after August 1<sup>st</sup>. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold an emergency election as needed.
- (C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning September 1 and ending August 31. An officer may continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated position of a board for more than three consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an officer in a designated position of a board for three consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person's service in that office.
- (D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.

#### **ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

- (A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, and represent the board at ceremonial functions.
- (B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.

#### **ARTICLE 6. AGENDAS.**

- (A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff liaison at least five days before the meeting.
- (B) The staff liaison shall prepare and distribute the agenda to the board members not less than 72 hours before the meeting.

- (C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

## **ARTICLE 7. MEETINGS.**

- (A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).
- (B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.
- (C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.
- (D) The regular meeting of the board shall be held on the second Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, Council Chambers, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, TX 78701 unless otherwise determined by the board. If the regular meeting day is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the following Wednesday.
- (E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A notice of a special meeting must be in writing and sent to all members at least three days before the meeting.
- (F) Four members constitute a quorum.
- (G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting, then the meeting may not be held.
- (H) To be effective, a board action must be adopted by affirmative vote of not less than the four members.
- (I) The chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.
- (J) The board shall allow citizens to address the board on agenda items and during a period of time set aside for citizen communications. The chair may limit a speaker to three minutes.
- (K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or failed to vote on an item.
- (L) The Solid Waste Services Department shall retain all official board documents. The documents are public records under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).

- (M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 8. COMMITTEES.**

- (A) Each standing or special committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. Each committee shall consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to each committee by the director of the Solid Waste Services Department.
- (B) The board chair shall appoint a committee member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.
- (C) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.
- (D) Each standing committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.
- (E) Each standing committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.
- (F) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

#### **ARTICLE 9. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the board in all cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of order which the board or city council may adopt.

#### **ARTICLE 10. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS.**

A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee.

The bylaws were approved by the Solid Waste Advisory Commission at their meeting held on September 8, 2010.



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Solid Waste Services Department