

# SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

12/14/2011



Solid Waste Advisory Commission  
Minutes

Regular Meeting  
14 December, 2011

The Solid Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on 14 December, 2011 at 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Council Chambers Room in Austin, Texas.

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Gerry Acuna, Rick Cofer, Maydelle Fason, Faye Kazi, Bob Schafer, and Jeff Paine

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Tammie Williamson, Sam Angoori, Roshanda Smiley, Jessica King, Donald Hardee, Richard McHale, Blanche Quarterman, Keith Murray, Amy Slagle, Andy Dawson, Ourana Cacho and Gretchen Kingham

## 1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

No citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen's communication.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of 11/09/11 were approved on a Commissioner Maydelle Fason motion, Commissioner Bob Schafer second on a 6-0-0 vote, Commissioner Brent Perdue was absent.

## 3. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Discussion and Action - Single Use Bags Ordinance

Director Bob Gedert gave a presentation of the draft Single Use Bag Ordinance.

Thirteen (13) Citizens were allowed to speak on this item.

- Bill Oliver, Citizen, performed a song for the commission in favor of the ordinance.
- Tucker Royall, Citizen, spoke with concerns about implementing the ordinance: cost of reusable bags, visitors to Austin, \$.25 fee, and limiting consumer choice.
- Robin Snider, Tx Campaign for the Environment, spoke in favor of the ordinance but would like a speedier implementation timeline.
- Mary Sisson, Citizen, spoke against the ordinance as a disabled senior citizen.
- Stacy Guidry, Austin Zero Waste Alliance, spoke in favor of the ordinance but would like it to be stronger.
- Ken Gallia, Citizen, spoke about his ideas and concerns for reusable bags after ordinance would go into effect.
- Ronnie Volkening, Texas Retailers Association, spoke with concerns about implementing the ordinance: not comprehensive, \$.25 fee, limited mention of recycling, and limiting consumer choice.
- Charley Price, Citizen, spoke neutrally of the ordinance in hopes of a good reuse educational campaign.
- Sidney Grief, Communicative Media Retailer, spoke against the ordinance with concerns that it will cause 1<sup>st</sup> amendment violations.

- Dave Rhodell, Citizen, spoke against the ordinance as bus rider and presented the Commission with a list of questions and concerns.
- Mike Sullivan, Hilex Poly Co LLC, spoke against the ordinance in favor of a better recycle program.
- Doug Buboia, Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, spoke with concerns about implementing the ordinance: not comprehensive, ¢.25 fee, driving business out of Austin, and limiting consumer choice.
- Cathy Guttuso, Citizen, spoke in favor of the ordinance in accord with the City's Zero Waste Plan and would like a speedier implementation timeline.

The Commission, Director Bob Gedert, and Citizens engaged in discussion in response to Citizen comment.

The vote to recommend a draft ordinance amending City Code Chapter 15-6 to prohibit 2 single-use carryout bags within the city limits; providing 3 exemptions; and establishing a limited duration surcharge, was deferred until the January 11, 2012 Solid Waste Advisory Commission (SWAC) meeting with a condition that a public meeting will be held prior to the SWAC date with Commissioner Bob Schaffer friendly amendment to request an extension from Mayor and Council on presenting a finalized draft of the ordinance was approved on Commissioner Faye Kazi motion, Commissioner Jeff Paine second on a 6-0-0 vote. Commissioner Brent Perdue was absent.

**b. Discussion - Haulers Ordinance Update**

Discussion was deferred until the January 11, 2012 SWAC meeting.

**4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

**a. Discussion - Emerging Technologies Report on Alternative Disposal Processes**

ARR Director Bob Gedert presented a report from the University of Colorado Denver with expectations of receiving a full report from the University in March of 2012 to be shared with SWAC in April 2012.

**b. Discussion - Director's Report**

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: Master Plan Update, Single-Use Bag Ordinance Update, Upcoming Austin Conferences, Future Council Items, New Staff, Upcoming Position Postings, and Performance Measures.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Single Use Bags Ordinance – Discussion/Action  
Hauler Ordinance Update  
Brownsfield Presentation

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gerry Acuna adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. without objection.