

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 2nd 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 on 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 Schnider, 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 1st 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 Gattuso, 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 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.