

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

02/08/2012



Zero Waste Advisory Commission
Minutes

Regular Meeting
08 February, 2012

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on 08 February, 2012 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, Fayez Kazi, Brent Perdue, Jeff Paine, and James Nortey

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Roshanda Smiley, Sue Cooper, Jessica Edwards, Phil Tindall, Ron Romero, Keith Murray Blanche Quartermann, Andy Dawson, Jennifer Herber, Ourana Cacho and Gretchen Kingham

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Lee Kuhn opened an invitation to the Allied Landfill Open House on April 21, 2012.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of 01/11/12 were approved on a Commissioner Rick Cofer motion, Commissioner James Nortey second on a 5-0-0 vote, Commissioner James Nortey abstained. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso was absent.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion – Distinguished Service Recognition

Current members of ZWAC presented past members with awards, certificates, and copies of the ARR Master Plan in recognition of their dedication to the commission.

b. Discussion and Action – 2012 Work Plan

ZWAC approved their 2012 Work Plan on a Commissioner James Nortey motion, Commissioner Jeff Paine second on a 5-0-0 vote. Commissioner Rick Cofer was off the dais. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso was absent.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Action - Single Use Bags Ordinance

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

Nine (9) Citizens were allowed to speak on this item.

- Dora Smith, Citizen, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban.
- Jeffrey Jacoby, Citizen/Tx Campaign for the Environment, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban.
- David Hogan, Central Texas Zero Waste Alliance, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban.
- Leslie Sweet, HEB, spoke in support of draft 3 of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with concerns that paper be included and the option for an emergency alternative be considered.

- JD Porter, Austin Zero Waste Alliance, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with concerns over the lengthy phase in period and the fee.
- Adam Gregory, Tx Disposal System, spoke impartially of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with mention of the possibility of recycling plastic film through a “bag-the-bag” program.
- Ronnie Volkening, Texas Retailers Association, spoke in opposition of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with a preference for recycling.
- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with concerns over the lengthy phase in period.
- Stacy Guidry, Texas Campaign for the Environment, spoke in support of a comprehensive single-use-bag ban, with concerns over the lengthy phase in period. She also gave a brief PowerPoint presentation.

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

A resolution to amend the third draft of the single-use-bag ordinance was proposed by James Nortey, Commissioner Brent Perdue second, but was declined on a 2-4-0 vote. Commissioners Gerry Acuna, Rick Cofer, Fayez Kazi, and Jeff Paine opposed. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso was absent.

The vote to recommend draft 3 of the ordinance amending City Code Chapter 15-6 to prohibit single-use carryout bags within the city limits, and establishing a limited duration surcharge, was approved on Commissioner Rick Cofer motion, Commissioner James Nortey second on a 4-2-0 vote. Commissioners Faye Kazi and Jeff Paine opposed. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso was absent.

b. Discussion - Haulers Ordinance Update

Commissioner Brent Perdue recused himself.

Director Bob Gedert provided ZWAC with an update on the Hauler Ordinance. One more stakeholder will be held before the ordinance is voted on by ZWAC and presented to City Council. Director Gedert is working with Law to finalize the ordinance.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Discussion - Director’s Report

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

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hauler Ordinance Update, Food Waste Disposal, Efficiency Study, Financial Forecast, Brownsfield Presentation - June

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gerry Acuna adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. without objection.