

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 2/13/2013



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2013

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on February 13, 2013 at 301 West 2nd Street, Council Chambers Room in Austin, Texas.

Co-chair Cathy Gattuso called the Commission Meeting to order at 6: 40 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Cathy Gattuso, Brent Perdue, Fayez Kazi, Dave Sullivan, and Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez.

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Tammie Williamson, Sam Angoori, Julie Rhodes, Aiden Cohen, Vincent Cordova, Vera Labriola, Dee Dee Quinnelly, Jessica King, Ourana Cacho, Gena McKinley, Donald Hardee, Ron Romero, and Sylba Loren.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

2 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems—commented on the changes in recently adopted Rules of Procedure regarding citizen communication. His concern was that increasing amount of speakers from four to ten (first five speakers at the beginning and last five speakers at the end) will not allow citizens to ask questions and comment on staff briefings. Mr. Gregory requested that the item is put on next month agenda, issue addressed, and the rules changed, so citizens can address the board on staff briefings.
- Caleb Daniels, Diesel Green Fuels—commented on the enforcement of code for mobile food vendors. His concern was that the code does not allow his business to provide service to mobile food vendors. According to the code, no services can be provided to mobile food vendors on the site, however, many food vendors only move once a year for the annual inspection. Mr. Daniels noted that not being able to offer Diesel Green Fuel's services to food trailers prevents them from being able to convert compost, recyclables, and greases into renewable resources.
- Stacy Guidry, Austin Zero Waste Alliance—decided to not address the Commission at this time.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of January 9, 2013 were approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Fayez Kazi second on a 5-0-0 vote. Chair Rick Cofer and Commissioner Jeff Paine were absent.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Action - ZWAC Bylaws Update

Director Bob Gedert presented the changes made to the ZWAC Bylaws approved by Council and the Finance Committee on January 23, 2013.

One citizen signed up to address the Commission on this item.

- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, had a question about donating time between the citizens addressing the Commission.

The updated Bylaws were adopted on a Commissioner Brent Perdue motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second on a 5-0-0 vote. Chair Rick Cofer and Commissioner Jeff Paine were absent.

b. Discussion and Action – URO Phase 2 Ordinance

Commissioner Brent Perdue recused himself from the discussion and vote on this item and left the dais.

Aiden Cohen, Business Outreach Manager, described the extent of the Phase 2 of URO Ordinance, explained what types and sizes of properties will be affected, and answered Commissioners’ questions. Mr. Cohen asked the Commission for input in the rule creation process.

2 citizens signed up to address the Commission on this item.

- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, complimented the work done on the URO Phase 2 Ordinance and expressed a concern about too broad a definition of composting facilities.

- Ryan Hobbs, Texas Disposal Systems, requested that the (5th definition) of composting facilities be adjusted to match the document he presented to the commission:

“COMPOSTING FACILITIES means an offsite facility **holding all required local, State and Federal authorizations**, where the organic component of municipal solid waste is decomposed under controlled conditions **for purposes of beneficial re-use.**”

The proposal to approve the staff prepared documents on URO Phase 2 Ordinance (with the amended of composting facilities definition suggested by Mr. Hobbs) was approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Faye Kazi second on a 4-0-0 vote. Chair Rick Cofer and Commissioner Jeff Paine were absent. Commissioner Brent Perdue recused himself.

c. Discussion and Action – ZWAC Annual Internal Review

Co-chair Cathy Gattuso presented the ZWAC Annual Internal Review prepared by the absent Chair Rick Cofer.

Commissioner Brent Perdue proposed scheduling a retreat for the commission to work on goals for 2013 and on the working groups and committees’ assignments.

The vote on the Annual Review Prepared by Chair Rick Cofer was postponed until the March 2013 Commission meeting on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez second on a 5-0-0 vote. Chair Rick Cofer and Commissioner Jeff Paine were absent.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. FY2012 Accomplishments

Director Bob Gedert presented the 2012 Austin Resource Recovery Accomplishments and the steps that were taken to inform citizens of Austin about the upcoming Single Use Bag Ordinance that will take effect on March 1, 2013.

b. Home Compost Rebate Program

Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez recused herself and left the dais.

Sylba Loren, Waste Diversion Planner, briefed the Commission on the outcomes of the Home Compost Rebate Program for the past three years.

c. Director's Report

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: Sustainable Materials Workshop, Organic Waste Collection, Staff Hires and Promotions, Performance Measures, and Statistical Reports.

Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez invited everybody to a Stakeholder Meeting for Food Surplus and Production (Sustainable Food Policy Board) 9:00—12:00 a.m., February 22, 2013.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- ZWAC Annual Report — March
- Hauler Ordinance (Rules Development) — March
- Recyclable Materials Market Pricing — March
- Briefing on Composting Pilot— March
- Mobile Food Vendor (repairs and service)
- Citizens Communication Follow up — March
- Climate Protection Briefing — March

ADJOURNMENT

Co-chair Cathy Gattuso adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m. without objection.

DRAFT