

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 4/10/2013



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2013

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on April 10, 2013 at 301 West 2nd Street, Council Chambers Room in Austin, Texas.

Chair Rick Cofer called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Cofer, Jeff Paine, Brent Perdue, Fayez Kazi, Dave Sullivan, and Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez.

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Amy Slagle, Nancy Chan, Richard McHale, Donald Hardee, Vera Labriola, Phil Tindall, Jimmy Miller, Elizabeth Corey, and Ourana Cacho.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1 citizen spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Mr. Ron Torrey, Captain Hook Roll Offs, expressed his concerns about the enforcement of the Hauler's Ordinance.
Director Gedert explained the next step in the development of rules for the Hauler's Ordinance.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of March 6, 2013 were approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Brent Perdue second on a 6-0-0 vote.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Presentation—Board and Commission Recommendations—new process

No citizens spoke about the agenda item.

Bob Gedert, Austin Resource Recovery Director, presented the City Clerk's Office new rules on posting boards' and commissions' recommendations (formerly resolutions) and answered commissioners' questions.

b. Discussion – City Manager's Direction on Disposal Contracts

No citizens spoke about the agenda item.

Bob Gedert, Austin Resource Recovery, presented the City Manager's new rules regarding all City of Austin waste disposal contracts and answered commissioners' questions.

c. Discussion and Action – Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract

5 citizens spoke about the agenda item.

- Mr. Mark Littlefield donated his time to Mr. Kuhn.
- Mr. Lee Kuhn Republic Services, addressed the issue of closing the landfill related to the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract and stated that his company is committed to closing the landfill by 2015. Mr. Kuhn also stated that the Republic Services met all of the City of Austin bidding rules and requirements for the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract.

- Mr. Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, donated his time to Mr. Michael Whelan.
- Mr. Michael Whelan, Texas Disposal Systems, commented on the City of Austin purchasing policies and recommended changes to the contract. Mr. Whelan urged the commissioners to recommend that the City of Austin rebid the contract and in the meantime extend the existing contract with Texas Disposal Systems.
- Mr. Ryan Hobbs, Texas Disposal Systems, donated his time to Mr. Bobby Gregory.
- Mr. Bobby Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, also expressed his concerns about the award of the Waste Disposal Contract and argued that Texas Disposal Systems would be able to recycle or reuse 46% of the waste handled under this contract. The Commission extended Mr. Gregory's time to allow him to conclude his remarks.
- Mr. Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, expressed his concern over the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract about too much waste going to the landfill.
- Ms. Melanie McAfee asked the ZWAC Commissioners to not support the award of the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract to BFI Recycling.

Commissioners asked Mr. Lee Kuhn to respond to the comments of the previous speakers. Mr. Kuhn explained that the waste can be transported to a landfill in San Antonio. His company would also be able to repurpose some of the disposed items on their site.

Director Gedert presented his review of the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract and commented on different definitions of diversion. He noted that items like utility poles cannot be recycled or composted; and since they are chemically treated, they are only eligible for regulated reuse. Mr. Gedert also explained the environmental safeguards of this contract.

Jim Eldred, Austin Energy, explained the kind of waste Austin Energy generates and the ways it is disposed of. Mr. Eldred also explained class 2 waste and informed Commissioners on the facts related to the Waste Disposal Contract and answered their questions.

Ms. Yolanda Miller, Purchasing Office, explained the City of Austin policies on contract bidding, described the specifics of the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract, and answered the Commissioners' questions about the bidding process.

Commissioner Faye Kazi made a motion to support awarding the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract but to allow no extensions. Commissioner Dave Sullivan seconded the motion and expressed support to the staff's position.

Ms. Kathleen Garrett, Austin Energy, responded to Chair Rick Cofer's concern about subcontracting parts of the contract and the use of landfills. Ms. Garrett also informed the Commissioners about how Austin Energy audits their contracts.

The proposal to recommend the approval of the Austin Energy Waste Disposal Contract with the expiration date of September 30, 2015 and with the intent of not exercising any extensions after the contract expiration was approved on a Commissioner Faye Kazi motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second, on 4-1-1 vote, with Commissioners Brent Perdue, Dave Sullivan, Jeff Paine, and Faye Kazi voting in favor, Commissioner Rick Cofer voting against, and Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez abstaining from the vote.

d. Discussion and Action – Vehicle Purchase

1 citizen signed up to speak about the agenda item.

Mr. Ed Hurley was not present.

Phil Tindall, Austin Resource Recovery, asked ZWAC Commissioners for an approval of the authorization to purchase three light duty vehicles by way of a contract through the

Texas Local Government Purchasing Cooperative (Buy Board) from Caldwell Country Chevrolet and Philpott Motors, Ltd.

Jimmy Miller, Austin Resource Recovery, answered Commissioners' questions about the use of the vehicles to be purchased.

The proposal was approved on a Commissioner Brent Perdue motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second on a 6-0-0 vote.

e. Discussion and Action – Mattress Collection and Recycling Contract

No citizens spoke about the agenda item.

Phil Tindall, Austin Resource Recovery, asked for a favorable recommendation to authorize award and execution of a 12-month service requirements agreement with Goodwill Industries of Central Texas for mattress collection and recycling processing services.

The proposal was approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Brent Perdue second on a 6-0-0 vote.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Customer Satisfaction Survey

Per Chair Rick Cofer's request, the briefing was postponed.

b. Director's Report

Sustainable Materials Update, Legislative Review, Recyclable Materials Market Pricing, Special Events Ordinance, Kite Festival Follow Up, Staff Hires and Promotions, Current and Upcoming Job Postings, Statistical Reports, and Performance Measures

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Briefing on Composting Pilot
Mobile Food Vendor (repairs and service)
SUBO Outreach Update
Sustainable Events Ordinance
Hornsby Bend Operations and Management Discussion
Hauler Ordinance

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rick Cofer adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m. without objection.