

## **ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES      3/6/2013**



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2013

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on March 6, 2013 at 1520 Rutherford Ln., Building 1, Code Compliance Training Room, in Austin, Texas.

Chair Rick Cofer called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Cofer, Cathy Gattuso, Jeff Paine, Brent Perdue, Faye Kazi, Dave Sullivan, and Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez.

Staff in Attendance:

Bob Gedert, Jessica King, Ron Romero, Cherilyn Wadley, Richard McHale, Donald Hardee, Vera Labriola, and Ourana Cacho.

### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

2 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Ms. Melanie McAfee, Barr Mansion/NE Neighbors, expressed her concerns about item number 26 on the March 7, 2013 City Council agenda (extension of an Austin Energy waste disposal contract). Ms. McAfee was concerned that extending the contract is in contrast with a resolution the City Council has adopted. Ms. McAfee proposed that the Commissioners request delaying the decision and reopening the bidding process.
- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, spoke about the same issue (item number 26 on the March 7, 2013 City Council agenda) and also expressed his concerns about extending the timeline for closing the landfill.

### **2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

Minutes for the regular meeting of February 13, 2013 were approved on a Commissioner Brent Perdue motion, Commissioner Sullivan second on a 7-0-0 vote.

Minutes for the special called meeting of February 26, 2013 were approved with amendments on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Brent Perdue second on a 6-1-0 vote. Commissioner Faye Kazi opposed.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Discussion and Action – ZWAC Annual Internal Review and 2013 Goals**

Chair Rick Cofer presented the ZWAC Annual Internal Review and goals for 2013. Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez proposed that food surplus efforts be added to the goals for 2013 and for ZWAC.

The Annual Review was approved with the suggested amendment on a Commissioner Faye Kazi motion, Commissioner Cathy Gattuso second on a 7-0-0 vote.

**b. Discussion and Action – Committees and Workgroups Assignments**

1 citizen spoke about the agenda item.

- Brandi Clark Burton, Food Shift Austin, introduced the Food Shift Austin group, their goal to prevent food waste, and strive for food recovery. Ms. Clark Burton invited interested citizens to join them. She also clarified that there is no longer a food surplus working group under the Sustainable Food Policy Board.

Chair Rick Cofer presented the suggestions for ZWAC 2013 committees and working groups. Commissioners discussed committees and working groups that will function under the Zero Waste Advisory Commission in 2013 and decided to continue the Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Committee and establish a Construction and Demolition Ordinance Committee, Producer Responsibility Working Group, Food Waste Prevention & Recovery Working Group, and a Communications & Community Engagement Working Group. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso offered to serve as ZWAC liaison to the City of Austin Sustainability Office. Commissioners also assigned members for all committees and working groups.

The committees and working groups were approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Commissioner Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez second on a 7-0-0 vote.

**c. Discussion and Action – Rules of Procedure (citizen comments on staff briefings)**

1 citizen spoke about the agenda item.

- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, proposed that citizens should be allowed to comment on every item of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission meeting agenda including the staff briefings.

Candy Parham, City Clerk's Office, explained the City of Austin policy on staff briefings and recommended that the ZWAC commissioners adopt the same rule on staff briefings as the City Council. Commissioners discussed issues related to comments on staff briefings and proposed that citizens have the opportunity to comment on staff briefings. Commissioner Sullivan suggested that up to 10 citizens be allowed to sign up for citizen communication on items not on the agenda.

The proposal to allow citizens to comment on staff briefings and to allow up to 10 citizens to sign up for citizen communication was adopted on a Commissioner Faye Kazi motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second on a 7-0-0 vote.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion and Action – Deposit Legislation – HB 1473**

1 citizen spoke about the agenda item.

- Mr. David Hudson, Strategic Materials Inc., explained the benefits of the proposed Deposit Legislation House Bill 1474, asked ZWAC for support of the bottle deposit legislation, and answered the Commissioners' questions.

The proposal to support the Deposit Legislation—HB 1473, SB645 was approved on a Commissioner Brent Perdue motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second on a 6-1-0 vote. Commissioner Jeff Paine opposed. Commissioner Faye Kazi was off the dais.

**5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

**a. ARR Climate Protection Briefing**

Director Bob Gedert briefed the ZWAC Commissioners on the Department Climate Protection Program and answered Commissioners' questions.

**b. Director's Report**

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: Hauler Rules Process, State Legislation Review, Staff Hires and Promotions, Current and Upcoming Job Postings, Statistical Reports, and Performance Measures.

Commissioner Brent Perdue suggested that Austin Resource Recovery Department informs ZWAC about issues on the City Council agenda that do not pertain to the department, but are related to environmental issues.

**6. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

No citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

**7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Recyclable Materials Market Pricing—April

Briefing on Composting Pilot—May

Mobile Food Vendor (repairs and service)

SUBO Outreach Update—May

Sustainable Parks (protecting City parks against litter after festivals)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rick Cofer adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m. without objection.