

**ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION (ZWAC) – UNIVERSAL RECYCLING  
ORDINANCE (URO) PHASE 2 COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 11/14/2013**



**Zero Waste Advisory Commission – Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) Phase 2 Committee**

**Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2013**

The ZWAC URO Phase 2 Committee convened in a meeting on November 14, 2013, at 301 West 2nd Street; City Hall, Room 1029 in Austin, Texas.

Committee Members in Attendance:  
Cathy Gattuso and Dave Sullivan

Staff in Attendance:  
Gena McKinley (ARR), Woody Raine (ARR), Dee Dee Quinnelly (ARR), and Jason McCombs (ARR)

1. CALL TO ORDER:
  - a. Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso called the Committee Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.
  - b. Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso facilitated introductions of Committee Members, City of Austin Staff, and meeting attendees.
2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION GENERAL:

Zero (0) meeting attendees spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The August 13, 2013, minutes of the URO Phase 2 Committee meeting were approved on a Commissioner Dave Sullivan motion, Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso second on a 2-0-0 vote. Commissioner Rick Cofer was absent at the time of the vote.
4. REGULAR AGENDA:
  - a. Staff Briefing – Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Administrative Rules Amendment Process Stakeholder Meetings – Mobile Food Vendors
    - i. Gena McKinley, Austin Resource Recovery Environmental Conservation Program Manager briefed the Committee on the Mobile Food Vendors URO Phase 2 Amendment process to date.
    - ii. Comments on this agenda item included:
      - Commissioner Dave Sullivan recommended Commissioner Rick Cofer send a letter to the Chair of the Planning Commission (Commissioner Dave Anderson) to expedite the issue of initiating an amendment to the Land Development Code to establish standards and regulations for mobile food vendor courts.
  - b. Staff Briefing – Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 Administrative Rules Amendment Process Stakeholder Meetings

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- i. Dee Dee Quinnelly, Austin Resource Recovery Senior Planner, briefed the Committee on the URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules Amendment process to date.
  - Backup material was provided to meeting attendees detailing primary emerging trends from stakeholder feedback to date as well as stakeholder proposed options for addressing these trends.
    - i. Link: <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=201939>
- ii. Comments on this agenda item included:
  - Bob Thompson, Joplin Properties, spoke of concerns of diversion container requirements at his property.
    - Woody Raine, Austin Resource Recovery, provided information within the ordinance and administrative rules on diversion containers.
    - Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, provided information on potential options with service providers.
  - Skeeter Miller, Greater Austin Restaurant Association and The County Line Restaurant, spoke of concerns of ensuring hauler infrastructure was in place before the organics diversion implementation date.
    - Commissioner Dave Sullivan recommended City staff take steps to aide businesses in reducing uncertainty about the implementation of the organics diversion programs and to facilitate helping business overcome barriers in implementation.
    - Commissioner Cathy Gattuso recommended creating an online directory of service providers for business.
  - Skeeter Miller, Greater Austin Restaurant Association and The County Line Restaurant, recommended the following on emerging themes from URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder group meetings:
    - 8.17, Composting Requirements, a phased in approach of organics diversion would not help implementation or reduce cost for restaurants.
  - Commissioner Dave Sullivan recommended the following on emerging themes from URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder group meetings:
    - 8.2 Applicability, utilize the utility bill to identify responsible party. Multiple means of identification of responsible party will be needed.
    - 8.3 General Principles, ensure that access to recycling and organics diversion for tenants and employees and that patrons (customers) be included in an amendment to the ordinance.
    - 8.7 Substitute and Alternate Materials, provide an extra “credit” to incentivize reduction and reuse.
    - 8.9 Interior Collection Areas, the business should not have to create a new collection area. One should not be required to add a common area for the purpose of collection.
    - 8.12 Semi Annual Volume Report, allow business options to report on a corporate or company wide basis and allow a business to report on an itemized list for franchises.
    - 8.17 Composting Requirements, “credit” created on the plan form to promote the Hierarchy of Beneficial Use.
    - 8.17, Composting Requirements, “Composting” be re-named to “Organics Diversion.”
    - 8.17, Composting Requirements, postpone the implementation of plate scrapings in the implementation schedule.
    - 8.17, Composting Requirements, City should aide in the facilitation of overcoming market barriers by attracting vendors and haulers and

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making suggestions on matching hauler with a business. Verify if the Administrative Rules are the best place to house this facilitation?

- Commissioner Cathy Gattuso recommended the following on emerging themes from URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder group meetings:
  - 8.9 Interior Collection Areas, purchase interior containers in bulk and provide those containers to business at a discounted rate to aide in cost of implementation of a recycling and organics diversion program.
- Adam Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, recommended the following on emerging themes from URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder group meetings:
  - 8.2 Applicability, the term “contracting party” could cover a multitude of designees.
  - 8.7 Substitute and Alternate Materials, Landscaping debris will be diverted due to economics. It will be more expensive for a business to put landscaping debris in a diversion container. Landscaping should not be included.
  - 8.12 Semi Annual Volume Report, farmers or ranchers should be licensed by the city to haul.
  - 8.17, Composting Requirements, a phased in approached of organics diversion may slow price reduction due to economics of scale. Postponing the implementation of plate scrapings in the schedule could be a possible line demarcation.
- Heather Nicole Hoffman, Compost Coalition, recommended the following on emerging themes from URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules stakeholder group meetings:
  - 8.17, Composting Requirements, “Composting” be re-named to “Organics Diversion.”

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Briefing on URO Phase 2 Administrative Rules Amendments.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Dee Dee Quinnelly, Austin Resource Recovery Senior Planner, informed the meeting attendees of future dates of Stakeholder Group Meetings and the date of the next URO Phase 2 Committee Meeting (December 17, 2013).

Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso called the meeting to a close. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m. without objection.