

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 9/11/2013



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2013

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on September 11, 2013, at 1520 Rutherford Lane, 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, Brent Perdue, Dave Sullivan, Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, and Faye Kazi.

Staff in attendance:

Bob Gedert, Phil Tindall, Ron Romero, Vera Labriola, Jessica King, Aiden Cohen, Keith Bible, Cheryl Wadley, Donald Hardee, Richard McHale, Gena McKinley, Nancy Chan, Emlea Chanslor, Matthew Christianson, Marcus Elliott, and Ourana Cacho.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

2 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Andrew Dobbs, Texas Commission for the Environment, commented on issues with mobile food vendors not being able to recycle.
- Jason Burroughs, DieselGreen Fuels, introduced the company that has been collecting used cooking oils since 2006. DieselGreen Fuels works with businesses in the food industry on turning used cooking oil into fuel. Mr. Burroughs commented on the rules for mobile food vendors regarding disposal of used cooking oils that prevent them from being collected and used as a resource.

Director Gedert, Austin Resource Recovery, commented on types of mobile food vendors and noted that a stakeholder meeting would be scheduled. The meeting will be a part of Universal Recycling Ordinance Phase 2 meeting on October 22, 2013.

Aiden Cohen, Austin Resource Recovery, commented on types of food vendors.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of August 14, 2013, were approved unanimously.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion—Hauler Ordinance Update

No citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

Mr. Matthew Christianson, Code Compliance Department, provided an update on the Hauler Ordinance rule-making process. Draft of the rules and ordinance will be sent out on September 13, 2013. Mr. Christianson answered Commissioners' questions.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and Action—City of Austin Advertising Contract

No citizens spoke about the agenda item.

Mr. Phil Tindall, Austin Resource Recovery, presented the proposal to authorize recurring purchases of advertising in an amount not to exceed \$225,000 for fiscal year 2014 (Austin American Statesman—\$85,000, Austin Business Journal—\$70,000, and Community Impact—\$70,000).

Mr. Tindall and Ms. Jessica King, Austin Resource Recovery, answered Commissioners' questions.

The proposal was approved on a Commissioner Faye Kazi motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second, on a 7-0-0 vote.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. URO Enforcement

Aiden Cohen updated the Commissioners on the Universal Recycling Ordinance progress and explained the implementation stages. Aiden Cohen and Bob Gedert answered Commissioners' questions on the ordinance and current and future enforcement options. Commissioner Dave Sullivan mentioned that on September 23rd, 24th, and 25th there will be "listening sessions" for the Land Development Code.

4 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Ms. Stacy Guidry, Texas Zero Waste Strategies and Austin Zero Waste Alliance, made comments on Universal Recycling Ordinance enforcement and asked the City to be more proactive in education and outreach before the ordinance comes into effect. This would shorten the "education and outreach" phase and make it possible to start enforcement earlier. Ms. Guidry suggested that incentive techniques be used rather than punitive ones.
- Mr. Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, expressed his concerns about the one year "implementation" period. Mr. Dobbs mentioned that he was skeptical about the accuracy of the 8% of noncompliant businesses mentioned in Mr. Cohen's presentation and the definition of "good faith effort".
- Mr. Don Jon Vonavich, Star Star Junk Haul, expressed his concern about the compliance of small haulers with the Universal Recycling Ordinance and the prospect of them losing business to bigger companies.
- Ms. Rachel Fisher, Austin Apartment Association, explained the 3 groups of tenants (desiring to recycle, compliant, and resistant). Ms. Fisher suggested that the best way to make apartment complexes comply with the Universal Recycling Ordinance is to have the tenants request recycling be available.

b. Collection Services Presentation

Mr. Ron Romero, Austin Resource Recovery, provided a briefing on services offered by the Collection Services Division of Austin Resource Recovery and answered Commissioners' questions.

c. HHW and Landfill Presentation

Mr. Donald Hardee, Austin Resource Recovery, provided a briefing on services offered by the Diversion Facilities Division of Austin Resource Recovery.

d. Director's Report

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: Council Item Update, ARR Department Language Translation Policy, US Business Council for Sustainable Development–Action 2020 Plan, The Three R's–Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Staff Hires and Promotions, Current and Upcoming Job Postings, Statistical Reports, and Performance Measures.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hornsby Bend Operation—October
Organics Collection Pilot—October
Mobile Food Vendors Update—November
Food Diversion—November
Re-Manufacturing Hub—November
Landfill Gas to Energy—November
North Service Center—2014
Re-use Austin—November
Solar Farm—2014

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rick Cofer adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m. without objection.