

ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES 10/9/2013



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on October 9, 2013, at 301 West 2nd Street, Council Chambers Room in Austin, Texas.

Chair Rick Cofer called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Rick Cofer, Cathy Gattuso, Dave Sullivan, Daniela Ochoa Gonzalez, and Jeff Paine.

Staff in attendance:

Bob Gedert, Vera Labriola, Jessica King, Emlea Chanslor, Elizabeth Corey, Richard McHale, Vidal Maldonado, Ron Romero, Julie Rhodes, Jeff Dilbert, and Tiesha Payne.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

2 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Mr. Brent Perdue, Ecology Action, commented on his resignation from the Zero Waste Advisory Commission, discussed the work of Ecology Action, and the challenges they face.
- Mr. Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, made comments on the Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) enforcement. According to Mr. Dobbs, all affected businesses should be in compliance and Code Compliance Department should be actively enforcing the ordinance. He was concerned about whether the companies that filed Recycling Plans were actually in compliance.

2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Minutes for the regular meeting of September 11, 2013, were adopted unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and Action—Recommendation—Mobile Food Vendors' Participation in Waste Diversion

The recommendation was sponsored by Commissioner Cathy Gattuso and Chair Rick Cofer. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso read the recommendation for the City of Austin to enact policies to allow mobile food vendors to divert waste.

Mr. Greg Guernsey, Director of the City of Austin's Planning and Development Review Department, explained the current City zoning codes related to mobile food vendors and recycling, and commented on zoning issues. Mr. Guernsey answered Commissioners' questions.

Ms. Jessica King, Austin Resource Recovery, commented on some City health regulations related to mobile food vendors and recycling.

Commissioner Dave Sullivan was concerned about the expression "effectively forbidding" in the recommendation. Commissioner Jeff Paine was concerned about the wording "for fuel production" and suggested to strike it.

2 citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.

- Mr. Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, expressed his concerns about City regulations that do not allow mobile food vendors to recycle.
- Mr. Eric Guff, East Side Compost Peddlers, spoke on behalf of his company and its clients about the uncertainty they encounter and confusing City of Austin rules.

The recommendation as amended by Commissioner Jeff Paine was adopted on a Commissioner Cathy Gattuso motion, Commissioner Dave Sullivan second, on a 6-0-0 vote. Commissioner Faye Kazi was absent.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Re-Manufacturing Hub and Re-use Austin Briefing

Ms. Julie Rhodes, Austin Resource Recovery, presented on recycling development programs—Re-Manufacturing Hub and Re-use Austin. Ms. Rhodes and Mr. Gedert answered Commissioners' questions.

b. Organics Collection Pilot Briefing

Mr. Vidal Maldonado, Austin Resource Recovery, presented an update on the Austin Resource Recovery Organics Pilot program. Mr. Maldonado answered Commissioners' questions.

c. Director's Report

Director Bob Gedert presented a report on the following items: Single Use Bag Ordinance Update, Eco-Cycle WtE and MRBT "Leftovers" Study, Master Plan—Economic Development, Staff Hires and Promotions, Current and Upcoming Job Postings, Statistical Reports, and Performance Measures. Mr. Gedert also updated the Commission on recent Council items.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hornsby Bend Operation—November
Mobile Food Vendors Update—November
Food Diversion—November
Landfill Gas to Energy—November
North Service Center—2014
Solar Farm—2014
Ecology Action—November
Special Events Ordinance Update—November
Single Use Bag Ordinance Update—November
Food Waste Reduction Efforts—November

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Rick Cofer adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m. without objection.