



**LOW INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

The Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force convened in a regular meeting at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, Room 100, in Austin, Texas. For the first meeting, Mr. Dan Pruett called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Introductions of Task Force members and staff members

Task Force Members in Attendance: Dan Pruett, Tim Arndt, Lanetta Cooper, Cyrus Reed, Carol Biedrzycki, and Chris Strand. Richard Halpin and Karen Hadden arrived after the Call to Order. Kelly Weiss was absent.

Staff in Attendance: Sady Bartlett, Toye Goodson-Collins, Liz Jambor, Denise Kuehn, J.J. Gutierrez, Ronnie Mendoza, Tom Turner and Joe Guerrero.

The next order of business to elect a Chair and Vice Chair was postponed until other members (Halpin and Hadden) arrived.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Julie Hatfield, Texas Gas Service – explained how Texas Gas Service works with Austin Energy to provide customers with new furnaces, ranges and water heaters.

Rick Von Schnier, Green Building Authority – shared successes with energy efficiency upgrades in low income and multifamily housing.

Moore McDonough, 360 Energy Savers – presented statistics to promote more low income and affordable housing initiatives.

Dave Cortez, Sierra Club – wanted to help bring more community input into Task Force discussions and focus on affordability.

Susan Meredith, Go Green Squads –agreed that focusing on multifamily initiatives is the way to go and wanted to make it an industry that works and is profitable.

2. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair** – Carol Biedrzycki was elected Chair on a vote of 7-1 with Tim Arndt abstaining. Tim Arndt was elected Vice Chair by acclamation.
3. **Discussion of the Texas Open Meetings Act, meeting procedures and a meeting schedule was led by Carol Biedrzycki.** Staff Member Toye Goodson-Collins briefly described basic rules of the Texas Open Meetings Act (TOMA). Any business should be conducted at public meetings, not by email between members. Messages or materials for the Task Force should be distributed to all members by Sady Bartlett, the staff liaison. Parliamentary procedures were reviewed. It is the responsibility of the Chair to make sure that any motion is clearly stated with a second and followed by discussion. One motion should be presented at a time. Votes are done by voice (yes/no, aye/nay). If the outcome is unclear, the Chair should ask for a show of hands. A draft set

of rules was submitted by Cyrus Reed. The group plans to vote on the draft rules at the next meeting. There was a discussion on the meeting schedule time, number of meeting times per month, and staff availability to consider. Austin Energy (AE) Staff recommended monthly meetings. Carol Biedrzycki commented that once a month meetings were acceptable but they might need to step that up later on to meet the October 2015 deadline. Dan Pruett suggested gathering information from AE regarding staffing considerations. Cyrus Reed recommended setting the next meeting and naming a sub-committee to work on the timing and frequency of meetings. He would like to meet bi-weekly or more than once a month because some of the Task Force recommendations may involve the annual budget deliberations and in order to have influence on that process, they would need to provide draft recommendations by June. Members agreed to set the next meeting for December 10 and future dates will be coordinated between the Chair and AE Staff. Cyrus Reed, Lanetta Cooper, Karen Hadden and Carol Biedrzycki volunteered to work together on the agenda subcommittee to create a draft agenda for the next meeting. Lanetta Cooper wanted to discuss a list of questions submitted to AE Staff before the Task Force had convened. AE Staff recommended that the Task Force submit any requests for data as a group in regular public meetings. Karen Hadden moved to adopt the questions raised by Lanetta Cooper as questions submitted by the whole Task Force. Richard Halpin seconded. The motion passed on a vote of 8-0. Members then agreed to extend the meeting to 4:45pm in order to give AE time to make their presentation.

4. **Review of scope and mission as stated in Council Resolution No. 20140828-158 – was explained by AE staff member, Toye Goodson-Collins.** The Resolution sets out the Task Force’s mission; “Be it further resolved..., “That the Task Force shall explore program options for low income and low-moderate income households such as income-sensitive sliding scale incentives, neighborhood-based energy efficiency programs, low-cost loans, combining community and city resources to effectively deliver programs, program cost-saving measures, and any other alternatives that will improve the effectiveness and cost efficiency of program delivery. The Task Force shall also make recommendations regarding:
- Identifying appropriate finding levels for low-income weatherization programs,
 - Developing options for low and low-moderate income customers to be able to participate in renewable generation resources,
 - Evaluating air conditioner rebates and other similar programs to ensure the programs are promoting the highest equipment efficiency levels to consumers,
 - Evaluating incentives or code changes that could encourage energy efficiency measures in apartment complexes, small rental units and duplexes, and
 - Establishing a demand reduction goal for low income and low moderate income households as a percentage of the energy efficiency and demand response goals for 2024. A "low-income household" shall be defined as one with income up to 200% of the federal poverty guideline and a "low-moderate-income household" shall fall between 200% and 400% of the federal poverty guideline” and “That quarterly reports shall be provided by the Task Force to the Electric Utility Commission, the Resource Management Commission, City Council, and the general public regarding this committee's work, and the committee shall be dissolved upon the Council's adoption of the recommendations of the Task Force, or on October 1, 2015.”
- Carol Biedrzycki commented that there are ties between this Resolution and the Generation Task Force recommendations. She suggests that members familiarize themselves with the Generation Task Force final report. Members requested that the liaison email them a link to the report.

STAFF BRIEFING

5. **Overview of Austin Energy's current energy efficiency programs including those benefiting low and limited income customers presented by Liz Jambor, Manager of Data Analytics and Business Intelligence and Denise Kuehn, Director of Energy Efficiency Services.** Link to presentation: <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=220955>

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. **Discussion of potential topics for future meetings** –The agenda subcommittee consisting of Carol Biedrzycki, Karen Hadden, Lanetta Cooper and Cyrus Reed will meet the following week to discuss future agenda items.

ADJOURN

Carol Biedrzycki adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. without objection.