



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES – MARCH 24, 2015

The Resource Management Commission convened in a regular meeting on March 24, 2015 at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, in Austin, Texas. The meeting was called to order by Chair Leo Dielmann at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Chair Leo Dielmann, Vice Chair Sean Kelly and Commissioners Richard Amato and Carol Biedrzycki. Grace Hsieh was not present at the call to order, but arrived after approval of the minutes. Commissioners Hari Krishna and Luke Metzger were absent.

Staff in Attendance: Debbie Kimberly, Liz Jambor, Denise Kuehn, Susan Kimmel-Lines, Jaime Gomez, Donylle Seals, Rebecca Baise and Toye Goodson-Collins of Austin Energy.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Tim Arndt spoke in support of item #5, reinstating large appliance replacements for customers in the free weatherization program.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Approve minutes of the February 17, 2015 meeting – **Motion to approve by Mr. Dielmann, seconded by Ms. Biedrzycki, passed on a vote of 5-0.**

3. NEW BUSINESS – Authorize award, negotiation and execution of a 12-month contract with CLEARRESULT CONSULTING INC., or one of the other qualified responders to RFP No. OPJ0111, for an Efficient Consumer Products Manufacturer Retailer Program in an amount not to exceed \$873,956, with four 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$873,956 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,369,780. **Motion to recommend approval by Mr. Amato, seconded Mr. Kelly, passed on vote of 5-0.**

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Quarterly Report by Texas Gas Service – by Julie Hatfield, Larry Graham and Jennifer Moran.
- b. Briefing by Austin Energy on marketing efforts for Customer Energy Solutions programs by Susan Kimmel-Lines.
- c. Briefing by Austin Energy on its Multi-Family Rebate Program by Denise Kuehn, Liz Jambor and Jaime Gomez.

5. OLD BUSINESS – Discussion and possible action regarding reinstating appliance replacements in Austin Energy's free weatherization program. Mr. Dielmann called for speakers. Paul Robbins said that due to discussions by the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force regarding a recommendation that appliance replacements be reinstated in the free weatherization program, the Commission should consider passing a resolution recommending that the practice not be reinstated because it was not cost effective. Ms. Biedrzycki, chair of the Task Force, stated that such action would be premature because the group had not issued its recommendations. Mr. Dielmann said that since the Task Force was due to issue preliminary recommendations by April 1, he thought it made sense for the

Commission to consider a resolution regarding one of the recommendations they had discussed at recent meetings. He read aloud the following draft resolution:

“Resolution to Address Austin Energy Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Free Appliance Program

Whereas, Austin Energy has the goal of saving electric demand and volume at less than the cost of new power purchases and generation; and

Whereas, Austinites have institutionalized these goals for decades because they recognize that the effort makes economic sense, helps individual consumers, and prevents air, water, and carbon pollution; and

Whereas, past programs that have given away free appliances to low and moderate income customers have been found to lack cost effectiveness, with some having paybacks on investment as long as 60 years, even though equipment has an average life of over 15 years; and

Whereas, continued investment in these options will discourage public confidence that their money in clean energy is being spent well; and

Whereas, the program to assist low and moderate income people save energy by giving away free appliances was largely funded by federal grants that no longer exist; and

Whereas, the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force is in active discussion about reviving this appliance giveaway program despite its economics; and

Whereas, low-income consumers as well as average consumers will pay for this effort, while receiving little in return if they do not participate; and

Whereas, there are more targeted and strategic ways that low-income customers can be assisted than giveaways of free appliances; ~~then~~

~~Then~~ Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Resource Management Commission recommend to the City Council and the Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force that giveaways of free appliances be abandoned as an active strategy in favor of options that can assist more low and moderate income consumers save more energy.”

The motion to approve the resolution, as corrected (above) by Commissioners, by Mr. Dielmann and seconded by Mr. Kelly, passed a vote of 4-1 with Ms. Biedrzycki voting no.

- 6. ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW** – Discussion of Annual Internal Review report to be submitted to the Office of the City Clerk by May 31, 2015 – Mr. Dielmann requested that the liaison distribute last year’s report to members. He asked members to think about suggestions and advice for the “new” Commission to be included in the report. He also asked that the liaison invite new appointees to attend the next three meetings of the Resource Management Commission.
- 7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Commissioners agreed to postpone the EV update to the May meeting so that they could focus on the Annual Report in April.
- 8. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – There were no announcements.
- 9. ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Dielmann adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:20 p.m.