



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes February 8, 2017

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on February 8, 2017, in Council Chambers in City Hall in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Shana Joyce, Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Amanda Masino, Joshua Blaine, Kaiba White, Stacy Savage, Rick Rojo, Cathy Gattuso

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Michael Sullivan, Erin Benoit, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Mike Turner, Katrina Fenrick, Shana Riviello, Jessica Frazier, Amy Slagle, Lori Scott Ron Romero, Donald Hardee, Jessica King, Nathan Shaw-Meadow, Ravi Joseph.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the November 9, 2016 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Blaine. The minutes from the November 9, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously 9-0 with Commissioners Bones and Jiampietro absent.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

NEW BUSINESS

4a. Vehicle Fleet Technology Upgrade - contract to provide vehicle fleet with technical upgrades. No member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

ARR Assistant Director Tammie Williamson introduced the item and thanked staff and departments for their work on the project and ARR Quality Assurance Division Manager Mike Turner presented a slide show and was available to answer questions about the item. A motion to recommend approval of the item was made by Commissioner White and seconded by Commissioner Savage. The motion was approved on a unanimous 9-0 vote with Commissioner Bones and Jiampietro absent.

4e. CodeNEXT Advisory Group – appointee request for draft Land Development Code forum.

This item was taken up out of order. No member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Commissioner Masino was appointed with Commissioner Blaine to take over on any continued involvement in the process of considering ZWAC related impacts of the revisions to the LDC. The motion was made by Chair Acuna and seconded by Commissioner Gattuso. The motion was approved on a unanimous 9-0 vote with Commissioner Bones and Jiampietro absent.

No member of the public signed up to speak on the 3 items below.

4b. Construction and Demolition Committee Annual Report – Report from Commissioner Blaine, Committee Chair. Commissioner Blaine provided an update from the committee and the report was accepted with no objection from the commission.

4c. Universal Recycling Ordinance Committee Annual Report - Report from Commissioner Gattuso, Committee Chair.

Commissioner Gattuso provided an update from the committee and thanked ARR staff Jason McCombs. The report was accepted with no objection from the commission.

4d. Organics Management Committee Annual Report - Report from Commissioner Hoffman, Committee Chair. Commissioner Hoffman provided an update from the committee and encouraged participation and future topics. The report was accepted with no objection from the commission.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Director's Report – Textiles Recycling, City Council Actions, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures
Sam Angoori, Interim Director, provided an update.

This item was taken up out of order. No member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Commissioners and staff discussed the items. Commissioner Joyce requested a postcard mailer from the textiles recycling program be brought to the commission at next meeting. Discussion ended and no action was taken.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3b.City Facilities Dumpster Collection Services – Revised contract to provide dumpster collection services for City of Austin facilities to include non-hazardous class 2 waste collections.

Seven members of the public signed up to speak on this item. This item was taken up out of order.

Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, thanked staff for breaking the item down into more detail, noted that the Community Landfill is not only a problem facility, it is slated to run out of space, and he believes it will be shut down. He disagreed with use of this landfill by the City. Mr. Dobbs also noted doesn't want the materials involved shipped to San Antonio. On organics he expressed support of the section but excluding the use of Tessman Road landfill and the Community Landfill, and noted that Council Members Casar and Houston requested community and environmental justice impact provisions be included in this agreement. Mr. Dobbs asked that the commission recommend against approving the contract.

Mike Minoean, Central Waste and Recycling spoke on the item. Mr. Minoean noted his firm currently services 5 City facilities and this proposal puts our contract in jeopardy. There should be provisions in the agreement that help smaller firms.

Walter Beal, Recon Services and Recycling and 973 Materials spoke on the item. Mr. Beal noted it was his first time to speak and he has 70 employees that live in the area. He noted if he could get a 32% increase in a contract he would be very happy, and questioned why pricing is increasing 32% in this agreement. Mr. Beal noted landfill, diversion rates, aftermarket material issues, and asked where is the material going and what are you doing to divert the material? Mr. Beal asked that the commission reject the contract.

Bob Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, three other speakers donated time. Mr. Gregory gave the commission a document and asked that they vote not to approve the item under consideration.

Acuna explained procedural guidance and background on the steps to take if the commission wanted to take an action.

After rescinding an action (using a motion by Blaine, second by Masino, unanimously approved) on the item from November 9, 2016 ZWAC meeting, and reviewing the item in four sections, a motion was made by Commissioner Blaine to reject the RFP and to deny permission to negotiate this contract, to not recommend the

Request For Proposals SLW0514 and to address the concerns via future public procurement discussions, including RFP's and other approaches. Commissioner White second. The motion was approved on a 9-0 vote, Commissioners Bones and Jiampietro absent.

The commission addressed the following sections and provided rationale for their vote regarding the areas below:

City Facilities: Opposition to any of the city waste going to the Austin Community Landfill or San Antonio landfill, or other facilities outside the CAPCOG region. Lack of clarification regarding the benefit of the "Citywide" scope of the agreement, including lack of analysis of cost effectiveness of providing some services in-house. Need to ensure existing contracts are honored fully.

Emergencies: Lack of explicit diversion and reuse provisions for emergencies.

Special Events: Unknown impact to small business community.

Class 2 and non-hazardous waste: All concerns from previous discussions remain unaddressed. Overall environmental and community impact, and carbon footprint concerns.

Vote: Unanimous 9-0

For: Commissioners Joyce, Rojo, Savage, Masino, Acuna, Gattuso, White, Hoffman, Blaine

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Jiampietro, Bones

3a. Organics Processing - Contract for organics processing to accommodate the expansion of the residential curbside organics collection program.

Eight members of the public signed up to speak on the item.

Phil Gosh, Organics By Gosh, spoke on the item, Donna Gosh donating time. Mr. Gosh, the owner of the proposed vendor for the contract, handed the commission a document and answered questions from the commission. Mr. Gosh requested a favorable recommendation.

Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment, spoke on the item and expressed concerns about site location, asking that we clarify waiting on all government registrations and have good contingency plans. Mr. Dobbs asked if concerns are addressed, that the commission move forward on this item.

Commissioner Hoffman moved to extend the meeting by another 30 minutes. Commissioner White second. The motion passed on an 8-1 vote, Commissioner Joyce opposed, Commissioners Jiampietro and Bones absent.

Bob Gregory, TDS, 3 others donating time. Mr. Gregory spoke on the item and handed the commissioners a document detailing reasons to reject the contract.

Commissioner Joyce said that we should vote to recommend the authorization and exec of the contract for a shorter period.

Mr. Gosh noted he has done the pilot since 2012, that it's hard to do this business not being a landfill. It takes a lot of equipment and it's hard to make investments for only a one year period. For a year he would not be interested.

Commissioner Acuna moved to extend the meeting by another 15 minutes. Commissioner Hoffman second. The motion passed on an 8-1 vote, Commissioner Joyce opposed, Commissioners Jiampietro and Bones absent.

A motion was made by Commissioner White, second by Commissioner Gattuso to recommend negotiation and execution of the contract to provide organics processing services. The motion passed on a 7-0-2-2 vote, Commissioners Acuna and Savage abstaining, Commissioners Bones and Jiampietro absent. The recommendation is contingent upon necessary permits and registrations being obtained, and with the added restriction that no biosolids or compost from biosolids will be mixed with City of Austin food waste or compost from food waste.

Vote: 7-0-2-2

For: Commissioners Joyce, Masino, Gattuso, Rojo, Hoffman, White, Blaine

Against: 0

Abstained: Acuna, Savage

Absent: Bones, Jiampietro

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Masino requested an update on the biosolids concerns from previous meetings.

Commissioner Blaine requested an thorough and clear explanation of the anti-lobby ordinance.

Commissioner Savage requested an update in May on the process for revisions to the URO regarding multi-family composting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hoffman, seconded by Commissioner Savage, and the meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 10:37 pm to no objection.