



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes April 12, 2017

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on April 12, 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, Stacy Savage, Rick Rojo, Cathy Gattuso, Blythe Christopher de Orive.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Michael Sullivan, Erin Benoit, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Amy Slagle, Lori Scott Ron Romero, Donald Hardee, Andy Dawson, Emlea Chanslor, Ashley Fisher

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

One member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Ross Smith spoke on the Remakery in Edinburgh, Scotland, and noted it was an excellent idea for a recycling program and potentially a job creation program.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 8, 2017 meeting minutes with one spelling correction and updated speaker counts was made by Commissioner Hoffman and seconded by Commissioner Gattuso. The minutes were approved 9-0-1 with Commissioners Bones abstaining and Commissioner White absent.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. CodeNext Update** - Report from town hall review of draft Land Development Code. Commissioner Masino provided detailed notes and an update from a recent Code Advisory Group.

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

The ZWAC may request a formal update from staff and/or the Code Advisory Group at a future meeting.

- b. Election of Officers** - chair and vice-chair elected annually at the first regular meeting after April 1 for a term of 1 year, beginning May 1, ending April 30.

Commissioner Savage motioned to nominate Commissioner Acuna for Chair, with second from Commissioner Masino. The motion was unanimously approved 10-0 with Commissioner White absent.

Commissioner Savage motioned to nominate Commissioner Gattuso for Vice Chair, seconded by Chair Acuna. The motion was unanimously approved 10-0 with Commissioner White absent.

- c. Committees and Working Groups** - recent updates from the Construction and Demolition Ordinance committee and potential new committee assignments and/or working groups.

Commissioner Blaine provided an update from the Construction and Demolition Committee.

Woody Raine, ARR, discussed background on the recent concerns raised regarding the ordinance.

Vice Chair Gattuso moved to form a working group to consider issues of qualified materials processors that do or do not accept materials from other private haulers and the ability of those private haulers to comply with the C&D ordinance and its reporting duties given the lack of processors currently accepting material. The goal of this group is to develop policy recommendations to the full commission that address these concerns with the intent of increasing the effectiveness of the C&D ordinance. Commissioner Masino seconded. Commissioners Savage, Acuna, Bones and Blaine volunteered to join the working group, and the motion was unanimously approved 10-0 with Commissioner White absent.

Commissioner Hoffman provided an update from the Organics Management Committee and noted they would provide a recommendation at the next regular ZWAC meeting on an Organics Outreach agreement.

Commissioner Hoffman discussed the Universal Recycling Ordinance regarding multi-family residential composting and recommended that the URO Committee review this topic, to which the Chair of the URO Committee agreed to no objection from the commission.

Vice Chair Gattuso provided a URO committee update from a recent meeting about food recovery, and that there will be more meetings with representatives from the sustainability community. In the committee's May meeting, the group will be looking at contamination, and how best to let the public know this is part of recycling.

Commissioner Christopher De Orive joined the Organics Management Committee to no objection from the commission.

- d. **Brownfields Environmental Services Rotation List RFQ** - Recommend approval to negotiate and execute a professional services agreement with various firms to provide environmental engineering and consulting services.

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

Christine Whitney, ARR, introduced the item and presented a slideshow on the proposed selection of engineering firms for the services and asked the commission for a favorable recommendation to Council.

Rolando Fernandez, Capital Contracting Office, explained the procurement process, where this item requests permission to use the amount, and if all funds are expended, there is a need to go back to Council to request more funding, which ostensibly would come from a grant.

Commissioner Masino asked if there is danger of losing the grant. Ms. Whitney said it didn't seem that this funding was in danger given the new political climate.

Chair Acuna requested a motion on the item. Commissioner Bones moved to recommend the item and Commissioner Savage seconded. The item was recommended on a 9-0-1 vote with Commissioner Joyce abstained and Commissioner White absent.

- e. **Electronics Recycling Services** - Provide recommendations for a future planned procurement of electronics recycling services.

One member of the public signed up to speak on this item.

Andy Dawson, ARR, presented the item and asked for questions or concerns, and to respond by April 19th to the staff liaison. Chair Acuna thanked staff for the advance notice, as did Commissioner Blaine.

Current vendor has lost some sponsors, we need to pay. It's no longer a revenue contract.

The commission discussed quantity changes, language updates in new contract, what may be included in the evaluative matrix for scoring, multiple vs single contractors.

Emlea Chanslor noted that the state provides education for takeback programs from manufacturers, and that we do provide information to customers about our drop off center, and that can be updated regarding manufacturer takebacks, but that is separate from this contract.

Commissioner Savage asked what happens when someone leaves electronics on curb.

Sam Angoori, ARR noted that ARR bulk collection picks the items up.

Vice Chair Gattuso asked about the future north facility, if it could be used to collect electronics for the time being.

Mr. Angoori noted that this could be possible but it may encourage illegal dumping due to the area of the location.

Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for Environment, thanked staff for coming to ZWAC early with the item, highlighted the e-steward requirements, and hopes that e-steward requirement remains as an important part of this contract to avoid shipping to developing countries. E-steward is a certification of where materials end up. Most e-waste is shipped to developing countries where regulations can be non-existent. There are multiple certification systems, but e-steward is the only one that prohibits that export.

Commissioner Savage asked about incentives to keep the materials local and asked if e-steward tracks downstream vendors?

Mr. Dobbs stated that could make getting a bidder more difficult, but it is a good idea, although e-steward at least addresses the responsible handling aspect of it. He also noted that they do track the manifest downstream.

Commissioner Masino asked if there was a requirement or program that ensures privacy and wiping of hard drive?

Mr. Dobbs answered that he does believe that the e-steward program covers this but that one should always wipe their drives clean before recycling them.

Discussion ended and no action was taken on the item.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Director's Report – General Updates: [re]Manufacturing Hub, Textiles Recycling, Travis County Interlocal Agreement, Cart Color, City Council Actions, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures.

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

Mr. Angoori presented the report and took questions from the commission.

Woody Raine, ARR, presented the section on the Travis County Interlocal Agreement. Shaun Auckland, Travis County, answered questions on the agreement.

Commissioner Savage asked if the the Zero Waste meetings that happen are open to public? Ms. Auckland responded that not currently but she can see if there is interest in this.

Chair Acuna asked about enforcement mechanisms to address facilities and illegal dumping outside of Austin. Mr. Raine said that was outside of the current agreement. Chair Acuna noted that many processing facilities are outside of Austin's jurisdiction.

Mr. Raine noted that Travis County complies with the URO requirements as though they are effected by it, although they aren't obliged to. In terms of extending requirements like diversion, Austin doesn't have the authority to do this in Travis County outside of the city limits.

Mr. Angoori said he would do some work on evaluating the diversion rate calculations and asked for items that the commission may want to see included in addition to residuals to be more clear on what is being reported. Textiles quantities, for instance, can be presented at future meetings after further research is performed.

Commissioner Blaine requested that staff isolate the 14K household organics pilot group out of the Yard Trimmings figure for an exploration of diversion rate of the pilot group without it being diluted from the 190K+ household count of the total.

Mr. Angoori noted staff is looking at recent audits on the organics pilot households that will show percentages for food scraps, soiled paper and also other contaminants.

Commissioner Savage asked if the projected goal of 43.27% total diversion factors in business organics diversion? Mr. Angoori noted that it did not.

Commissioner Hoffman noted this is just ARR operations not citywide collection figures.

Mr. Angoori noted staff can provide more detail in the coming months.

Commissioner Blaine noted that ARR's position was that the planned organics rollout could not happen unless the postponed organics processing contract was approved by April 20, and that this deserves discussion.

Mr. Angoori stated that organics was not a posted topic on the agenda, and Commissioner Blaine replied that he was surprised that organics was not noted explicitly but was hidden in actions taken by Council since last meeting.

Commissioner Blaine said he doesn't see lack of a new contract as an excuse to delay the organics rollout, that there are other purchasing mechanisms to utilize.

Chair Acuna referenced lack of contingency plan as a reason he abstained from the vote on the processing contract when it came to ZWAC.

Cahir Acuna asked when the earliest rollout of the program could begin.

Mr. Angoori noted the Council working group comes back June 1 with policy recommendations, then council makes a decision, so it could possibly start in October. There are some months of outreach prior to launch. Cart delivery, education, etc. we don't want to do it now and have people wait 10-12 months.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if the outreach contract is being delayed. Ms. Chanslor replied that it is not being delayed and the scope of the working group doesn't include the outreach contract.

Commissioner Blaine asked if the pilot contract doesn't allow for an increase, to look at specifics of the contract and see if we can utilize current one for the expansion to 38,000 additional households.

Mr. Angoori replied that we have to wait for council input on the questions posed by Council.

Blaine - can we ask someone who has details of the contract to answer that question. Richard McHale responded that he thinks expansion is allowed but contamination costs may be a factor, so the vendor would like to have a new contract to accommodate that.

Chair Acuna asked to invite the proposed vendor to discuss direct questions, if it doesn't violate purchasing regulations.

Michael Sullivan noted that what is posted to discuss is the recent action by Council on the proposed contract that they postponed indefinitely, so the specifics of that action can be discussed, but the agenda addendum would be the appropriate section where discussion of the Council Working group could occur.

Phil Gosh approached the dais. Commissioner Savage asked if Mr. Gosh can accommodate an additional 38,000 households under the current contract.

Mr. Sullivan cautioned that before you proceed with discussion that this is going to working group, and ZWAC has already made a recommendation on this. Council has set this up to be dealt with in the next couple of weeks, and we didn't post to discuss current contract, and that's what is happening.

Mr. Gosh noted we have 2 locations, 7 acres and 27 acres, 4 times the size.

Chair Acuna noted he was trying to avoid hiccups, asked it is staffed, does it have equipment? If we start on schedule can you handle catastrophic weather event? Mr. Gosh said yes he will have both sites ready.

Commissioner Blaine told Chair Acuna this does feel like we are talking about the pending contract that the commission is not posted to talk about.

Mr. Angoori noted that vehicles are purchased to service 38K homes, and staffing is in place. It is ready to go. We are just waiting on action from Council.

Chair Acuna asked that if it doesn't go smoothly, then we don't have more trucks waiting ready to add in 54k more homes and additional phase in of this program, if council says keep program as is - we could terminate the expansion?

Mr. Angoori, responded that yes Council can make that decision, stop it, portion it, it's up to them.

Commissioner Blaine asked Mr. Angoori if Council asked you to halt the program? Mr. Angoori noted that no, the direction was to suspend the proposed contract, to have work group, and go over policy issues, that he is following council on this and not moving forward until council says to.

3 f. Council Working Group - Appoint a member to represent the commission in stakeholder discussions at the City Council's Waste Management Policy Working Group meetings.

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

Commissioner Blaine nominated himself to no objection and the Commission unanimously approved.

5. Future Agenda Items

Chair Acuna asked to make it a discussion and action item in May on timeline and rollout of organics program to explore concerns and resolutions and to ask staff to provide whatever info you need to make these decisions.

Mr. Angoori noted he will have the same presentation made to Council on April 19 presented to ZWAC, and to provide any questions you may have to staff liaison and hopefully staff can provide responses at next meeting.

Chair Acuna recommended discussion on an audit at some point, to start with the Office of Performance Management request made last year.

Commissioner Blaine requested a more detailed update on the [re]Manufacturing Hub, Commissioner Savage requested an update on mattress recycling.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm to no objection.