



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes November 8, 2017

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on November 8, 2017, at City Hall Council Chambers in Austin, Texas. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information, please visit http://www.austintexas.gov/cityclerk/boards_commissions/meetings/97_1.htm.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., and introduced the new member to the Commission, Melissa Rothrock, appointed by District 2 Council Member Delia Garza.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Joshua Blaine, Rick Rojo, Cathy Gattuso, Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Amanda Masino, Kendra Bones, Melissa Rothrock and Kaiba White. Absent are Shana Joyce and Christopher de Orive.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Amy Slagle, Ron Romero, Jessica Frazier, Natalie Betts, Tina Bui, Emlea Chanslor, Woody Raine, Donald Hardee, Armelle Ouedraogo, Memi Cardenas, Selene Castillo.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Item 1

Speaker: Allan Schroeder, Save the Food Coalition and member of the Austin- Travis County Food Recovery Working Group – Save the Food Coalition presentation. The coalition will be pushing for a new ordinance that would define food as a category of its own, generate a year's end report and include of what kind of food is being generated by restaurants and grocery stores, how much, quantifiable metrics to follow, and would require a separate Food Diversion Plan. Reporting could be done online by business or food runners.

Chair Acuna stated the Master Plan will be reviewed next year and this can be evaluated to see if it fits the Zero Waste Challenge.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 17, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Item 2

The October 17, 2017 meeting minutes required a date and attendee names correction. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Chair Acuna pending corrections. Commissioner Bones moved for approval. Commissioner Blaine seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed 9 - 1, Commissioner Gattuso voted nay. Commissioners Shana Joyce and Christopher de Orive were absent.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

5b. Economic Development Presentation

Natalie Betts, ARR Economic Development Department - The Economic Development Department and Austin Resource Recovery have been in partnership since 2013 to jointly run the Recycling Economic Development Program and are included in the 2011 Master Plan. The mission of the Recycling Economic Development Program is to attract, retain, and grow Zero Waste Businesses and Entrepreneurs in order to create local jobs and foster a more resilient zero waste Eco System in Central TX.

Dave Colligan, Economic Development Department - Chapter 380 Policy and Program Performance overview. Public Surveys were conducted and are available on-line. Compiled information will be presented to ZWAC December 12th, and policy recommendations to Council before April.

Commissioner Acuna advised Dave to compile information so it can be included in the Master Plan Review in January 2018.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4b. FY18 Fleet Package

Amy Slagle, ARR – Requesting a favorable recommendation on equipment purchases for 2018 that will be presented to council in February 2018 for action. This package included Heavy Duty Trucks, Sweet Sweepers, Flusher Trucks, Vans, Flat Beds, and Pick-Ups. The total cost is approximately \$7.5 million.

At the request of the Commission, Amy will contact Fleet to see what options are available for electric vehicles.

Commissioner White recommends approval of this request with the exception of the light duty vehicles and recommended the department look at electric options for the light duty vehicles and a charging station.

A motion to accept the item was made by Chair Acuna. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gattuso.

Chair Acuna recommended to postpone the discussion until the January 2018 meeting. Commissioner Hoffman moved and Commissioner White seconded. The motion to postpone was passed 9-0.

4a. Committees on Working Groups- deferred until January 2018.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3a. Council Working Group (Waste Management Working Group)

Speakers: Phil Ghosh, Steve Shannon, and Adam Gregory commented on Council item 42.

Sam Angoori, ARR – Purchasing and the Ethics Review Committee have deferred item 42 for 6 months.

3b. Council Working Group: Item 50, deferred till January 2018

Speakers: Phil Gosh, Steve Shannon, Adam Gregory, and Andrew Dobbs commented on Council item 50.

Chair Acuna discussed adding an amendment to the current recommendation and have a vote on item 50.

Commissioner Blaine moved against item 50 and Commissioner Gattuso seconded it. Unanimous vote on all (9-1). Commissioner White abstained.

Commissioner Blaine recommended 3 months to have the new ALO in place. Commissioner White seconded it.

Recommendation from ZWAC to Council on item 50

Whereas James Scarborough, the Purchasing Officer, has requested 6 months to complete the ALO revision process. Whereas having a functioning ALO is critical to the work of this Commission and will maintain a fair playing field. Whereas several months have been already dedicated to the revision process. Therefore be it resolved that the Commission recommends the ALO revision process is expedited and be completed in no longer than 3 months.

Chair Acuna motioned to approve the recommendation. All was in favor and voted unanimously 9-0.

3c. Draft Landfill Criteria:

Richard McHale, ARR – Presented Staff Recommendation regarding directing waste diversion by criteria not by landfill. Staff should develop criteria for waste diversion to include considerations such as: community impact and social equity, carbon footprint, amount and type of waste, existing levels of hazardous materials at landfill. Staff should prepare this matrix and it should come before the Council for approval before implementation. Staff requested feedback by December 13th.

Speakers: Phil Ghosh, Andrew Dobbs, Bob Gregory, Gary Newton, and Jerry Yales commented on the subject.

Chair Acuna reiterated Dec 13th deadline to submit the criteria which will be reviewed in January and motion in February.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

5a. Director's Report – Residential Curbside Composting update, including expansions, budget and internal audits to be conducted in February 2018.

The schedule for the Master Plan update was discussed and request for feedback was noted.

5c. CURSIDE COMPOSTING

Emlea Chanslor provided information on outreach activities and Curbside Composting Educational Efforts.

Ron Romero added a pilot is being done for the VFTU with 10 trucks and a system that will identify if there is contamination on the collected items. Current data collected via the pilot will help educate the customers in the future.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following items will be postponed until the January 2018 meeting:

Landfill criteria
OPM (6.b),
Master Plan update
Anti-Lobbying Ordinance updates (5.e)
Weekly Recycling (5.d),
Electric Vehicle (6.a)
Solicitation updates.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hoffman seconded by Commissioner Bone and the meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 10:00 pm to no objection (Unanimous)