



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes April 10, 2019

The Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened in a regular meeting on April 10, 2019 in Council Chambers in City Hall 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 6:38 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Amanda Masino, Melissa Rothrock, Jonathan Barona, Kaiba White, Joshua Blaine, Ian Steyaert.

Absent are: Kendra Bones, Heather-Nicole Hoffman, Blythe Christopher de Orive.

Staff in attendance: Sam Angoori, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Ron Romero, Amy Slagle, Gena McKinley, Andy Dawson, Victoria Rieger, Shana Riviello, Mike Turner, Michael Zavala, Scott Long, Lori Scott, Mark Berdoll, Michelle Walker, John Speirs, Marcus Gonzalez, Armelle Ouedraogo, and Gabriel Gonzalez.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Item 1

Nancy Harris signed up to speak about the Director's Report. She voiced her concerns over the on-call bulk pilot table. Her concerns were that the totals were incomplete, the categories of items were not included nor was it broken down by route. Richard McHale, ARR, said that the table was in response to Chair Acuna's question from the previous meeting. Mr. McHale said that a full report will be provided in the future.

2. Assistant City Manager Chris Shorter Introduction and ARR Director Recruitment Process

Item 2

Assistant City Manager Chris Shorter provided an update to the Commission regarding ARR's Director Recruitment. Mr. Shorter said that a firm has been selected to handle the recruiting process. Chair Acuna asked if questions could be submitted to Mr. Shorter's office. Mr. Shorter said questions and comments could be submitted by the end of Friday, April 12, 2019. Commissioner White said that a collaborative

leadership style is important. Commissioner Blaine asked if the public would be involved in the recruitment process. Mr. Shorter said that he is not anticipating meeting with community groups at this time. Commissioner Barona added that leadership style and transparency is key as well as someone that is innovative, and forward thinking. Chair Acuna added that a having a complete understanding of financial statements is important.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Rothrock moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Masino. Passed unanimously, 8-0.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

4. OLD BUSINESS

4a. Discussion and Action - Approval of October 10, 2018 meeting minutes

Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval. Commissioner Barona moved for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Gattuso. Passed unanimously, 8-0.

4b. Discussion and Action – Affordability Study – Resolution

Andrew Dobbs, TCE, voiced his concerns about the line of putrescible waste and wants the line to be removed. Chair Acuna commented that the focus is on diversion, but trucks still come back with non-recyclable material. Mr. Dobbs said that the line of putrescible waste will lead to a transfer waste station.. Commissioner White asked what the intention is of putrescible waste. Chair Acuna said that it is about getting trash trucks to be more efficient; reducing trash collection by having a transfer station at the new North facility. Commissioner Gattuso asked how it would look like to have a transfer station with waste. Chair Acuna said the resolution is looking at way to more efficiently increase the diversion waste and save money.

Commissioner Rothrock asked if the pickup service only for the North Austin Recycle and Reuse Center. Chair Acuna said that the pilot program would be for North, East, West, and South Austin. Chair Acuna said that it would encourage the Master Plan authors to look at different options. Commissioner Masino commented that the intention is to look at diversion as a means to efficiency, but wants the document to say that the commission is not looking for a waste transfer station, only a recycling and reuse transfer station. Commissioner Barona commented that he finds it acceptable to look at this as a cost in the assessment. Commissioner Gattuso is worried that this could lead to another landfill. Commissioner White said tactics should be specified.

Chair Acuna said to strike putrescible waste and leave the rest the same. Chair Acuna entertains a motion. Commissioner White moves for approval. Commissioner Barona seconds. Passed unanimously on an 8-0 vote.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5a. Discussion and Action – Officer Elections

Commissioner Gattuso moves for Chair Acuna to be Chairman of the commission. Seconded by Commissioner Gattuso. Passed unanimously on a 7-0 vote.

Commissioner White moves for Commissioner Gattuso to be Vice Chair and Parliamentarian. Seconded by Chair Acuna. Passed unanimously on a 7-0 vote.

5b. PC Loan Pilot Program RCA

John Speirs, CTM, presented information regarding the PC Loan Pilot RCA. Mr. Speirs presented information regarding the Pilot program milestones, and the different departments involved in an effort to develop prolonged use of retired City of Austin computing equipment. Mr. Speirs' said that the program is aligned with ARR's Master Plan and Zero Waste Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Rothrock wanted to know if Dell computers were used. Mr. Speirs said that the computers are Dell OptiPlex computers. Commissioner Rothrock also asked how [Mr. Speirs] identifies the organizations. Mr. Speirs advised that everyone that applies is being reviewed and they have to go through an assessment process. Commissioner Masino asked about statistics on the use of the computers. Mr. Speirs said that there are statistics that are received but it depends on the organization to report the information. Commissioner Steyaert asked about the intake distribution of computers and what the impact is for the future. Mr. Speirs said thin-client devices are trending and they are monitoring them.

Chair Acuna entertained a motion. Commissioner Masino moves for approval. Seconded by Commissioner White. Passed unanimously on an 8-0 vote.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

5b. Vehicle Fleet Technology Upgrade – Presentation by ARR Staff

Presentation by Mike Turner, ARR. Mr. Turner described the current status of the Vehicle Fleet Technology Upgrade. In March of 2017, City of Austin Council approved the contract with FleetMind Solution, Inc. 100 of the 220 vehicles have been upgraded with the next phase of installations set for June 2019.

Commissioner Gattuso asked if this gets [the department] closer to its Zero Waste goals. Mr. Turner responded that this will help with routing efficiency which could help with carbon emissions and see areas that may need help. Commissioner White asked about the preset message buttons on the displays in the truck; Commissioner White suggested that different contaminants be listed and recyclable materials in trash. Mr. Turner said those messages are currently listed in the system.

Commissioner Rothrock asked if each container pickup is automated. Mr. Turner replied that each pickup is automated. Commissioner Rothrock asked if drivers were offered higher salaries due to training for

new hardware requirements. Mr. Turner responded that drivers are required to take extensive training, but there is no salary increase since it is an essential job duty.

Commissioner Steyaert asked about major challenges faced in the project. Mr. Turner said the biggest challenges are implementing new processes and change management to help teach employees a new technology. Mr. Turner said that the other biggest challenge was getting the messaging system to operate with three separate organizations. Commissioner Steyaert asked if there were analytics to look at problem areas. Mr. Turner said that there is data mining, and there is information being looked at within the department to improve inefficiencies. Commissioner Steyaert asked if the data can be available to public who is interested. Mr. Turner said the data is held by a private company so only approved internal staff have access to it.

Chair Acuna said that private sector technology has scales to weigh the containers. Mr. Turner said the cart-to-cart weighing technology would have doubled the cost of the project. Chair Acuna wanted to know the price variance to implement the technology.

5a. Director's Report: Soil Kitchen, Fix-It Clinic, DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, Master Plan Responses Update, URO Educational Outreach Efforts, Expansion of Household Hazardous Waste Program, Current On-Call Bulk Request Process and Proposal for New On-Call Bulk Request Process, Curbside Composting Program Analysis Presentation Questions & Answers, Solicitations Update, Statistical Reports and Performance Measures

Richard McHale, ARR, presented information about the Master Plan Update. Four vendors responded to the Master Plan. More information would be presented in the May ZWAC meeting. Commissioner Masino asked about the meaning of the BOPA events in the URO Educational Outreach Efforts report. Mr. McHale said that BOPA stands for Batteries, Oil, Paint and Anti-Freeze. Commissioner Masino asked about programs that reach out to non-profits. Andy Dawson, ARR, commented there are no direct partnerships. Commissioner Blaine asked about the URO food recovery data. Gena McKinley, ARR, provided updated numbers; she said the numbers indicate the percentage of properties that have submitted their plan and how they divert organic material. Commissioner Blaine said "food recovery" is misleading; Ms. McKinley said that it could be changed to "organics diversion method." Commissioner Blaine asked if brick-and-mortar are tracked by categories. Ms. McKinley said she is unsure if it is tracked by category. Commissioner Blaine asked about the protocol if a business has not submitted a plan. Ms. McKinley said that ARR works with Austin Code to have a proactive outreach and that the business has to attest to their submission. Commissioner Blaine asked if the data for breaking down the organics diversion plans. Ms. McKinley said the raw data is available, and a student from the University of Texas is trying to gather meaningful information.

Commissioner Gattuso asked how often businesses have to conduct education on their access to organic diversion. Ms. McKinley said it has to be done annually and when there are new employees. Commissioner Gattuso asked if there is a form that indicates if they did that. Ms. McKinley said they have to attest to it and there is a form.

Commissioner Rothrock asked about the infrastructure available to mobile food trucks to divert organic waste. Ms. McKinley said the ordinance does not dictate the way the business diverts organics; Ms. McKinley said there is a team available to mobile food vendors to provide education about options.

Commissioner White asked about education for composting. Ms. McKinley said the Business Outreach team would convey information about compostable items, but oversight cannot provide education to individual businesses.

Commissioner Barona asked about the plastic film recycling services. Andy Dawson said the department is working with vendors to have a contract. Commissioner Blaine asked about the roll-out for curbside organics. Mr. McHale said that the next roll-out will occur by August with a map available in June or July.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recycling contract comparison, Master Plan RCA, On-Call Bulk Report in June, URO Meeting Update, Landfill Matrix Update.

ADJOURNMENT A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Gattuso on a unanimous decision. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Acuna at 8:57 pm to no objection (Unanimous).