



**ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION (ZWAC)  
UNIVERSAL RECYCLING ORDINANCE (URO) COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 23, 2019**

The ZWAC URO Committee convened on April 23, 2019 at Austin Public Library; University Hills Branch; 4721 Loyola Ln; Austin, TX; 78723

Committee members in attendance:

Cathy Gattuso (Chair), Jonathan Barona, and Kaiba White

City staff in attendance:

Jason McCombs, Selene Castillo, Elizabeth Nelson, Gena McKinley, Valerie Vines

1. CALL TO ORDER
  - a. Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso called the committee meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.
  - b. Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso facilitated introductions of committee members, City of Austin staff, and meeting attendees.
2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Zero (0) citizens spoke during the opportunity for citizen communication.
3. MEETING MINUTES
  - a. A motion to approve the September 27, 2017 meeting minutes with no amendments or revisions was made by committee member Barona and seconded by committee member Gattuso. The minutes were approved with a 2-0 vote with committee member White absent.
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Selene Castillo (ARR) briefed the committee on bylaws.
  - b. Elizabeth Nelson (ARR) briefed the committee on the status of the Universal Recycling Ordinance at multifamily properties, including recycling capacities and organics diversion reported at multifamily properties in fiscal year 2018. Properties have reported an average capacity of 22 gallons per dwelling unit per week. Capacity ordinance language adopted in other municipalities was presented. Current options for organics diversion at multifamily properties was presented. Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso opened the meeting to stakeholder discussion.

Meeting attendees asked questions about ordinance enforcement and collaboration with Austin Code Department on enforcing complaints about trash and recyclables on the ground from overflowing containers.

Several stakeholders expressed the need for more stakeholders to be in the room for future discussions about ordinance changes and discussed how to reach the multifamily audience.

Commissioner White made a motion to recommend a stakeholder process be initiated with the intention of amending the Universal Recycling Ordinance to require the minimum weekly recycling capacity be adequate to prevent recyclables from being mixed with putrescible waste by increasing the availability of recycling capacity at multifamily properties to: a ratio of 24 gallons of recyclable capacity per dwelling unit, or an equal 1:1 ratio of landfill trash to recycling capacity. Seconded by Committee Chair Gattuso. Committee members voted in favor of the motion 3-0.



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Gena McKinley (ARR) recommended a pilot to test organics diversion options at different multifamily property types to inform future policy. This process would be similar to the organics diversion pilot study that preceded the 2013 URO amendments.

Stakeholders asked about logistics of pilot options, and questions about processing capacity. Commissioner Jonathan Barona expressed that more information needed to be gathered before making a recommendation regarding organics at multifamily properties.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- a. Commissioner White requested information on properties with existing organics diversion.
- b. Committee Chair Gattuso requested an outline of a timeline of an organics multifamily pilot.
- c. Committee Chair Gattuso requested stakeholder discussion on multifamily recycling capacity revisions.
- d. Commissioner Barona requested more information from Austin Code Department on multifamily and littering complaints.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Cathy Gattuso adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m. without objection.