



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2022

The Monthly Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened through Video Conference on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information please visit: <https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/175189>

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 pm

Board Members in Attendance: Gerry Acuna, Cathy Gattuso, Amanda Masino, Ingrid Powell, Ian Steyaert, Albert Swantner, Kaiba White, Melissa Caudle

Board Members not in Attendance: Melissa Rothrock, Jonathan Barona, Ethan Myers

Staff in attendance: Ken Snipes, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Amy Slagle, Gena McKinley, Andy Dawson, Donald Hardee, Dwight Scales, Jason McCombs, Brent Paige, Wendy Riggins, Victoria Rieger, Amy Schillerstrom, Shana Riviello, Ron Romero, William Purcell, Carina Hanson, Marcus Gonzalez, Raymond Benavidez, Selene Castillo, and Yahel Baranovicht

Chair Acuna opened with comments,

1. APPROVAL of the May 11, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the May 11, 2022, Meeting minutes. Commissioner Kaiba White made the first motion for approval of the minutes. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Ian Steyaert

2. Discussion and Action: Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) RCA- Chad Presley

([Video hyperlink](#)) ARR Chief Administrative Officer Chad Presley presented on behalf of ARR. The [RCA](#) is needed to purchase vehicle wraps and installation services on ARR collection vehicles. Due to ongoing vehicle purchases, the list of vehicle types and campaign ads may change throughout the specified contract period at the City's discretion.

Commissioner White asked what happens with the wraps upon removal. ARR responded that the wraps would be recycled. Commissioner White expressed concern on vinyl's toxicity and asked if alternative materials were available. ARR stated that alternative materials could be researched and that the contract was not necessarily exclusive to vinyl. ARR will ask if alternative materials are available.

Chair Gerard Acuna entertained a motion for deferral as noted by Commissioner Ian Steyaert, the first motion for deferral, first motion for deferral was provided by Commissioner Ian Steyaert A second motion was provided by Commissioner Kaiba White

Deferred unanimously by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission on an 8-0 vote

3. Zero Waste Comprehensive Plan Update- Selene Castillo

([Video hyperlink](#)) ARR Assistant Director Tammie Williamson introduced the presentation by providing a brief background of the Comprehensive Plan. ARR Planner Principal Selene Castillo presented the commission with an update on the development of ARR's Comprehensive Plan which followed the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). Selene summarized the project's overall progress from initiation to today. She continued with a deeper discussion on community engagement efforts executed throughout the project, including the use and results from surveys and focus groups. Selene introduced the commission to ARR's recently developed racial equity tool, which was created to guide ARR as the department develops new programs, services, and policies for our community. She then described a subset of goals intended for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan where staff anticipates ZWAC having the most impact as initiatives are started. The presentation closed with a look at how ARR's Comprehensive Plan aligns with and supports the City's Climate Equity Plan.

Chair Acuna asked if the fine based system to curb recycling has been effective in Corpus Christi and other Texas cities. ARR responded while they were unaware of the Texas cities, they have seen it be effective in other locations. Chair Acuna acknowledged that a transfer station is a necessary element to achieve efficiency and electrification of the fleet. ARR responded that ARR is in the early stages of identifying potential properties. Chief Acuna requested that ARR consider private-public partnerships when considering transfer stations. Commissioner Gattuso reiterated that she thought that fines for recycling contamination appear necessary in the future and asked that the commission be considered when prioritizing items in the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Masino asked if there was a different tool for internal versus external customers. ARR responded different tools are used. Commissioner Masino followed up by asking if the focus groups were asked for their point of view regarding equity and ARR. ARR responded that equity was not discussed. Commissioner White noted that subcommittees meetings may be appropriate to further explore the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Caudle asked how the fine/fee for recycling contamination would be administered and what type of property is being considered for the transfer station. ARR responded that the fine administration system does not currently exist. ARR would like to find vacant land to avoid demolition costs.

Director's Report

([Video hyperlink](#) and [backup documentation](#))

ARR Staff provided updates on:

- Brush Collection Update
- Bulk Collection Update
- Emergency Brush and Bulk Collection Contract Overview
- Solicitations Update
- Performance Reports
- Statistical Reports

Future Agenda Items

- Future FM 812 Landfill Potential (TBD)
- Small Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Future Opportunities and Involvement Presentation (TBD)
- Keep Austin Beautiful Update (August)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 pm

The minutes were approved at the September 14, 2022 meeting on Albert Swantner's motion, Melissa Caudle second on a 6-0 vote.