



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes August

August 10, 2022

The Monthly Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened at City Hall and through Video Conference on Wednesday, August 10, 2022. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information please visit:  
<https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/178664>

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gerry Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:07 pm

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

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Jonathan Barona, Ethan Myers, Ingrid Powell

**Staff in attendance:** Ken Snipes, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Amy Slagle, Gena McKinley, Andy Dawson, Donald Hardee, Dwight Scales, Jason McCombs, Brent Paige, Blanche Quarterman, Victoria Rieger, Amy Schillerstrom, Shana Riviello, Ron Romero, William Purcell, Carina Hanson, Marcus Gonzalez, Maddie Morgan and Yahel Baranovicht

Chair Acuna opened with comments. Chief Acuna changed all staff briefings to discussion/action items and rearranged the order in which the briefings were to be discussed.

### **1. APPROVAL of the June 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

*Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Amanda Masino had a question regarding the minutes and availability of the transcript. The transcript is available, and the minutes would be enhanced with more information regarding.*

*Chair Gerard Acuna entertained a motion for deferral by Commissioner Amanda Masino, the first motion for deferral. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Kaiba White.*

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

**5. Discussion and Action: URO Multifamily Composting Pilot Study Timeline Update – Gena McKinley** ([Video hyperlink](#)) ARR Strategic Initiatives Manager Gena McKinley briefed the commission that staff updated the URO Committee in June regarding the status of the pilot project and further informed the commission that the URO Committee had received a draft of the final report on August 10, 2022. Next steps are to schedule an additional URO Committee meeting, have a full presentation during the September ZWAC meeting, and gather feedback from the committee, the commission, and the key stakeholders to make a recommendation to City Council. Commissioner Cathy Gattuso expressed concerns regarding the URO Committee meeting and the availability of staff. Commissioner White questioned if the report would be discussed in the next committee meeting. ARR Strategic Initiatives Manager Gena McKinley confirmed that it would and she stressed the importance of committee members talking to stakeholders – constituents, apartment management, and professional organizations – to determine impact. She also stressed that multiple meetings would have to take place for these discussions to take place.

*No action was taken.*

**4. Discussion and Action: Office of Sustainability Comprehensive Food Plan Presentation – Edwin Marty** ([Video hyperlink](#)) Office of Sustainability Policy Manager Edwin Marty briefed the commission on the City's first food plan. The briefing followed the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). Commissioner Melissa Rothrock asked the length of the plan. Edwin Marty stated that the plan would be a 5-year plan but that the Office of Sustainability to create a system that lasts much longer than 5 years. Chair Acuna asked if gentrification was filling the gaps. Edwin Marty stated that the question was complicated and that his team was focusing on neighborhood stabilization.

*No action was taken.*

**3. Discussion and Action: Keep Austin Beautiful – Rodney Ahart** ([Video hyperlink](#)) Keep Austin Beautiful CEO Rodney Ahart briefed the commission on the environmental education and community engagement programming. The briefing followed the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). Commissioner Amanda Masino asked if there was demographic information on the students participating in the programs. Rodney Ahart replied that they do collect the information and he could supply the data later.

*No action was taken.*

**2. Discussion and Action: Small Minority Business Resources (SMBR) Future Opportunities and Involvement – Felecia Shaw** ([Video hyperlink](#)) SMBR Acting Assistant Director Felecia Shaw briefed the commission on the SMBR program. The briefing followed the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). Chair Acuna asked if ARR would start using the SMBR opportunities. Director Snipes stated that SMBR is already used for purchasing. Commissioner Ian Steyaert asked how successful the program is. Felecia Shaw stated that the program has existed since 1987 and relayed anecdotal evidence of businesspeople coming in as subcontractors and growing their business capacity. Commissioner Melissa Rothrock asked if SMBR can help struggling businesses. Felecia Shaw stated that that service would likely be delivered by the Economic Development Department.

*No action was taken.*

**Director's Report** ([Video link](#))

ARR Staff provided updates on:

- Solicitations Update
- Performance Reports
- Statistical Reports

**Future Agenda Items** ([Video Link](#))

- Future FM 812 Landfill Potential (TBD)
- URO Multifamily Compost Pilot (September)
- Transfer Station Visits (September)
- Budget Forecast for FY23 Update (September)
- C & D Diversion Challenges (TBD)
- Information Gathering (Franchise, Ordinance, etc) (TBD)
- New Resident Information (TBD)

*Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm*

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