



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes September

September 14, 2022

The Monthly Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission convened at City Hall and through Video Conference on Wednesday, September 14, 2022. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information please visit: <https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/184463>

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gerry Acuna called the Commission Meeting to order at 6:08 pm

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

**Board Members not in Attendance:** Jonathan Barona, Ethan Myers, Ingrid Powell, Kaiba White, Ian Steyaert

**Staff in attendance:** Ken Snipes, Tammie Williamson, Richard McHale, Amy Slagle, Gena McKinley, Andy Dawson, Donald Hardee, Ron Romero, Jason McCombs, Brent Paige, Wendy Riggins, Victoria Rieger, Amy Schillerstrom, Shana Riviello, William Purcell, Marcus Gonzalez, Elizabeth Nelson and Yahel Baranovicht

### **1. APPROVAL of the August 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

***Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the August 10, 2022, Meeting Minutes.***

***Chair Gerard Acuna entertained a motion for approval by Commissioner Gattuso. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Caudle with an edit to attendance.***

***Approved unanimously 6-0 by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission.***

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

*Chair Acuna entertained a motion to approve the June 8, 2022, Meeting Minutes.*

*Chair Gerard Acuna entertained a motion for approval by Commissioner Swantner. A second motion was provided by Commissioner Caudle with an edit to correct a misspelling.*

***Approved unanimously 6 – 0 by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission***

**3. Discussion and Action: ARR Budget Review Update – Victoria Reiger** ([Video hyperlink](#))

ARR Finance Manager Victoria Reiger briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- ***How is the budget determined for encampment clean-ups?*** The amount was derived in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Department. The amount was what they believed they will need to support some of the clean-ups with the Clean Community Fee.
- ***What positions are difficult to hire?*** Mainly our CDL positions due to a tight job market. There are problems on the administrative side as well – primarily in IT positions.
- ***How are we electrifying our fleet?*** ARR is not replacing the entire fleet but looking at specific pieces of equipment. A transfer station will be needed to add more heavy equipment.
- ***Is the transfer station a capitol improvement?*** Yes

***No action was taken.***

**4. Discussion and Action: Transfer Station Presentation and Update: Richard McHale**

([Video hyperlink](#)) ARR Deputy Director Richard McHale briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- ***Is the transfer station for trash only?*** The transfer station will handle multiple streams.
- ***How did Seattle engage the community and how was the site selected?*** The north site was a current site that was demolished and rebuilt. There was extensive community engagement which led to the amenities offered.
- ***Which building is the most representative of what ARR would like? Factoria. Is solar power utilized?*** Yes. ARR wants to be Gold LEED which would include solar power.
- ***What is the average mileage at end of life for collection vehicles?*** Approximately 200K miles which takes between 6 and 8 years to reach.

***No action was taken.***

**5. URO Multifamily Composting Pilot Study Update – Elizabeth Nelson** ([Video hyperlink](#))

ARR Planner Senior Elizabeth Nelson briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- ***What surprised you from the study?*** That the customers found that the most useful ARR-provided material was the counter compost container.
- ***What does an ARR customer pay for compost?*** Unsure of exact cost –

approximately \$4.

- ***What would be done differently if city-wide?*** The education offered to the multifamily residents would not be realistic to offer city-wide. ***What was the education about?*** The education piece included the “how-to” piece as well as the importance of sustainability and diversion.
- ***When was the pilot completed?*** April 2022
- ***The complex that used the valet option, how did their midterm go?*** There was an increase in pest and rodent issues.
- ***The apartments with the lower rent seemed to have higher participation.*** ARR informed that these complexes were student housing which was a factor in participation.

***No action was taken.***

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

[Report](#) provided updates on:

- ARR Vehicle Wraps Update
- Solicitations Update
- Performance Reports
- Statistical Reports

**Future Agenda Items**

*Quorum lost prior to Director’s Report. Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm*

The minutes were approved at the November 9, 2022 meeting on Commissioner Gattuso motion, Chair Acuna seconded on a 6-0 vote.

