



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes November

November 9, 2022

The Monthly Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) convened at City Hall and through Video Conference on Wednesday, November 9, 2022. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information please visit:

<https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/189324>

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Board Members not in Attendance: Jonathan Barona, Ethan Myers, Ingrid Powell, Albert Swatner, Melissa Rothrock

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 September 14, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Prior to the approval of the minutes, Chair Acuna deferred Item 4 until further notice.

Chair Acuna deferred the approval of the minutes as the required votes were not present. Clarification of the rules allowed for the approval of the minutes to commence. Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval from Commissioner Gattuso, seconded by Chair Acuna. Minutes were approved unanimously 6 – 0 by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission.

2. Discussion: Trash in Creeks – Andrew Clamann (Watershed Protection Department) ([Video Hyperlink](#)) Watershed Protection Department's Andrew Clamann briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- What is meant for improved rules for dumpsters? Currently, there is no municipality

involvement of dumpster size and frequency of collection. This can lead to overflowing dumpsters.

- **Where are the hotspots?** Hotspot are located up and down stream. Trash stops where there are physical impediments.
- **How has San Marcos banned containers?** San Marcos has a much smaller scale than Austin and is focused on banning certain containers in a small area of recreation.
- **Is historic dumping buried trash?** Yes. As the creek moves over time, buried trash gets exposed.
- **Can buried trash be rehabilitated?** Probably but it is not a great place to use resources. It is mostly metals and there would be issues with erosion and restoration.
- **How many water stations are there?** Austin Water is increasing the number of water stations in the city. Austin Water would have this information.
- **Can we remind people to not use single use plastics?** Yes.
- **Why can't trash be reported on the 3-1-1 app?** The volume of service requests is a concern.

3. Discussion and Action: URO Update and Proposed Implementation – Jason McCombs([Video Hyperlink](#)) Austin Resource Recovery's Jason McCombs, briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- **Clarify the source reduction strategy?** In the future even if source reduction is the entity's strategy, they must also participate in composting or food donation.
- **A potential resolution regarding multifamily composting was introduced.** The commission began editing the resolution. A discussion of the process and the timeline
- **What about offering all services at 4-plexes?** There is a cart set for 22 November. ARR is looking at curb constraints as well as avoiding nuisance with upper and lower floor neighbors.
- **Chair Acuna appointed Melissa Caudle to the URO Committee.**

No action was taken and item deferred until after the final meetings and reports generated.

Item 4 was deferred.

5. Discussion and Action: 2023 ZWAC Meeting Dates – Ken Snipes ([Video Hyperlink](#)) Austin Resource Recovery Director, Ken Snipes, proposed a 2023 ZWAC meeting schedule to the commission that featured 8 meetings. This is in line with the number of meetings that have been held over the past 5 years. It was also proposed to hold the commission meetings in different area of Austin to allow more community engagement. The following questions and concerns were voiced:

- **The current location is centralized.** Moving the meeting monthly can lead to confusion. Some feel that they cannot make it to other locations time-wise without missing work.
- **Eight meetings is not enough.** Bylaws mandate 12 meetings
- **How can quorum be "guaranteed".** The Chair will contact members two weeks prior to the meeting to insure quorum.

Commissioner White moved to meet every second Wednesday of the month and to reserve City Hall but to consider other locations. Commissioner Steyaert amended to include a two week notice to staff that quorum will be present by commission members confirming attendance. Commissioner Masino seconded. Approved unanimously 6- 0.

Director's Report ([Video Hyperlink](#))
[Report](#) provided updates on:

- Brush Collection

- Solicitations Update
- Performance Reports
- Statistical Reports

Future Agenda Items