



Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes March

March 22, 2023

The Special Called Meeting of the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC) convened at City Hall and through Video Conference on Wednesday, March 22, 2023. The following are the meeting highlights. For detailed information please visit:

<https://austintx.new.swagit.com/videos/222619>

CALL TO ORDER

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

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

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

Staff in attendance: Ken Snipes, 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 and Yahel Baranovicht

1. Approval of the February 8, 2023. Meeting Minutes

Chair Acuna entertained a motion for approval from Commissioner White, seconded by Vice Chair Gattuso. Minutes were approved unanimously 7 – 0 by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission.

2. Discussion and Action: review of URO Draft Resolution for Multi-family Composting Implementation – Cathy Gattuso ([Video Hyperlink](#)) Vice Chair Cathy Gattuso briefed the commission. The first draft of the resolution is on SpeakUp Austin. The URO committee will meet and edit as needed. The second draft will also be on SpeakUp Austin. Some items on the Commission resolution are not on the City resolution and these will be revisited.

4. Discussion and Action: 2023-2024 Austin Resource Recovery Budget – Victoria Rieger ([Video](#))

[Hyperlink](#)) Austin Resource Recovery's Victoria Riege, briefed the commission following the presentation found in the [backup documents](#). After the presentation, the following questions were asked:

- **Can the multifamily compost be added as a ZWAC priority?** Yes
- **Why is the lost time rate higher in 2020?** ARR will research but Covid played a role
- **Can the \$20M ice storm cleanup be reimbursed with Texas's rainy-day fund?** Not to our knowledge. We hope to get reimbursed through FEMA.
- **Is there a cost/benefit analysis for ZWAC priorities?** Some financial analysis is available now for items already in progress. Requests can be made formally for a response, or it can be a future agenda item.
- **Is the Clean Community Fee increase for increased cost or to expand services?** A little bit of both. An example is to have a daytime crew in the downtown corridor. This is just one example.
- **Are you not allowed to have two months of reserve?** There are some clarifications and direction coming from the budget office regarding this issue.
- **Why only 75% reimbursement through FEMA?** This is the maximum allowed through FEMA.
- **Can emergency cleanups come out of the general fund?** Not for the current effort but it is up for discussion for future emergencies.
- **Comment:** Perhaps we should be cutting services as opposed to adding services given the budget forecast.
- **Can staff get hazard pay?** It is a city-wide decision. Not available to city staff.

3. Discussion and Action: Zero Waste Advisory Commission Austin Resource Recovery 2023-2024

Budget Resolution – Gerry Acuna ZWAC Chair Acuna presented the ZWAC budget resolution as found in the [backup documents](#). Commissioner White moved to adopt resolution and Vice Chair Gattuso seconded. Commissioner White moved to add amendments and Vice Chair Gattuso seconded. Passed unanimously for amendment and the amended resolution.

Director's Report ([Video Hyperlink](#))

[Report](#) provided updates on:

- Winter Storm Clean up
- Solicitations Update
- Performance Reports
- Statistical Reports

Future Agenda Items

- URO Working Group
- Fourplexes
- FEMA assessment reimbursement

The minutes were approved at the APRIL 12, 2023 meeting on Vice Chair Gattuso's motion, Commissioner Melissa Caudle second on a (6-0) vote.