



Solid Waste Advisory Commission Recycling Ordinance Reform Subcommittee

September 23, 2009, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, Texas
Council Chambers

APPROVED – MEETING MINUTES

Sub-Committee Members:

Rick Cofer (chair)

Maydelle Fason

J.D. Porter

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Introduction of the Solid Waste Advisory Commission Subcommittee Members
Commissioners Rick Cofer and JD Porter were present.
Maydelle Fason was not present
- b. Inform audience of process and rules

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

The first (4) speakers signed up will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to speak.
No speakers

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve minutes from September 9, 2009 subcommittee meeting

Action: JD Motioned approval, Rick Cofer seconded. Approved 2-0

4. REGULAR AGENDA (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. Presentation on implementation of Section 15-6 Article 5, Commercial and Multi-family Recycling Ordinance (Staff: Jason Crouch and Keith Bible)
Jason Crouch, SWS Waste Reduction Assistance Program (WRAP) explained how the city implements and enforces the current ordinance upon commercial properties and commercial multi-tenant properties. Jason explained that he is the sole person assigned to commercial properties and commercial multi-tenant properties. He provided a list of successes and challenges specific to non-residential commercial properties. Jason also informed the Committee that a number of Institutional entities were currently voluntarily complying with the Ordinance. During discussion, Jason suggested that he could organize the types of properties that were complying or participating such as restaurants, grocery stores, offices, institutions, etc.

Keith Bible, SWS WRAP, explained how the city implements and enforces the current ordinance upon multi-family properties (apartments). Keith explained that he is the sole person assigned to multi-family properties. Keith also provided a list of

Commissioners asked both representatives if the plan forms helped their process and both representatives stated that the plan forms helped a lot. They also stated however that the data reported from properties was issued quarterly and that there was no consistency in reporting the diversion information.

- b. Discuss development and permitting process with regards to waste management and recycling.

Guest presenters: Sue Welch and Joe Almazan from Watershed Protection & Development Review Department.

Joe and Sue explained the site planning and permitting process specifically regarding planning for waste management and recycling needs. They explained that the city requires developers to identify the location of waste management pads for dumpsters along with all other uses on the site. Additionally, a note is included in the site planning process that references Section 15-6 of the Code. Commissioner Porter asked if there were any ways to verify the information prior to issuance of certificate of occupancy for example. Joe explained that the note is followed up in the building permitting process and admitted that the follow up on that process could be reviewed and potentially tightened up. Commissioner Cofer asked about recommendations regarding ways to balance parking/space concerns on an older/smaller properties. Joe provided options that were used to give administrative authority such as re-striping the parking to include more compact parking or approving a reduction in parking allowance that is given to properties in the central business district. However, anything beyond that authority such as reducing parking requirements if the parking space was used for recycling purposes would have to be included in the land development code or granted by the board of adjustment. Commissioner Porter also asked about the process used between Austin Energy Green Building and WPDRD and stated that in previous discussions a recycling plan provided earlier in the process might accelerate the approval process. Staff explained that they would look into any process improvements including at the building permit phase.

Commissioners also invited Bill Brice, Downtown Austin Alliance, to speak on the issue of utilizing parking spaces in the downtown area for additional recycling containers. Mr. Brice explained that loss of parking spots in the downtown area would be a detriment and that recycling and waste management should really be located in the alleyways. He also explained that the city's management of the downtown contract allowed for recycling of cardboard and paper and that the city also provided a pilot program for glass recycling. Lastly, Mr. Brice stated that if containers for recycling were required, then one should not expect an increase in containers, but rather a fair exchange of waste containers for recycling because you would hopefully see an increase in recycling and a decrease in waste.

- c. Discuss criteria to use in the ordinance to determine applicability and ability/reliability to track criteria.

Jessica King, SWS, explained that the AMANDA Permitting system was not in place at the time the 1998 ordinance became effective and staff did not have the complete ability to know how many properties would be subject to the ordinance.

For multi-family properties, the AMANDA system is able to report the number and location of buildings with more than 5 dwelling units. Currently, the AMANDA system does not provide a total number of dwelling units per property. Staff will have to cull

identify the property that is required to comply.

For commercial properties, staff attempted to pull a report on the amount of square footage per commercial property and the occupancy load per commercial property. However, the data was not reliable because staff could not verify that the data showed the TOTAL square footage per property. Staff will be exploring options to re-run the data and/or partner the information with other agencies like the Travis County Appraisal District. The findings were similar for the occupancy load data.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioners asked for clarification of the remaining schedule of meetings and speakers. Staff shared the following schedule:

* October 14, 2009 – Commercial Stakeholders

* October 28, 2009 – Multi-family and Institutions

* November 17, 2009 – Service Providers

* December 2, 2009 – Discuss enforcement, implementation timeline, and final recommendations

Commissioner Cofer suggested that a meeting between November 17th and December 2nd take place to iron out details with stakeholders. Staff agreed to organize the meetings.

6. ADJOURN

Commissioner Porter motioned to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Cofer. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 pm.