



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESAC)

Minutes

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Approved on May 12, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:12 p.m.

A quorum was established.

Present:

Elvira Suarez Din
Alfredo Araiza
Ryan Thomas
Yolanda Herrera
Kris Yarter, Chair
Margot Garcia
Michael Herrier

Representative, Ward 1
Representative, Ward 2
Representative, Ward 3
Representative, Ward 5
Representative, Ward 6
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

VACANT
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT
VACANT

Representative, Ward 4
Representative, Mayor's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office

Staff Members Present:

Carlos De La Torre

Director, Environmental & General
Services Department (EGSD)

Victoria Molt

Finance Manager, Business Services
Department (BSD)

Brittany Aldrich

Staff Assistant, EGSD

2. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2022

The minutes for March 10, 2022, were approved with grammatical corrections.

3. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events

- **Annual Report** – A draft copy of the annual report was provided to the Committee members for review. A motion was made by Committee Member Garcia to approve the emailed 2021 annual report with the discussed corrections. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Araiza and the report was approved with no objections.

4. Director's Summary of Current Events

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director provided an update on the following:

- **Glass Update** – In November 2020, Mayor & Council approved the Glass Reuse Plan to have the opportunity to divert roughly 4,300 tons of glass from the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and to create alternative uses for glass. Since then, a small glass crushing machine was purchased and installed at the landfill. So far 1,800 tons of glass has been picked up from 22 different sites around Tucson.

It has been difficult to have operators run the machine due to other department priorities at the landfill. Initially, it was intended to use the Arizona Department of Correction workers but with pandemic restrictions the department has not been able to receive workers. As EGSD continues to divert glass other interested parties within the glass industry has approached the department and a temporary agreement with Strategic Materials, Inc. has been put into place to collect glass for a collective fee.

EGSD continues to work towards the Zero Waste Roadmap and finding different partnerships that have a sustainable business model. Discussion was held.

5. Zero Waste Discussion

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director provided an update on this item. EGSD is currently working with HDR Consultants and is preparing a Request for Information to solicit for development opportunities that have alternative, sustainable uses for waste materials. Additional, HDR is collecting data information and identifying other best practices from comparable cities that have incorporated a Zero Waste Plan. Director De La Torre reminded ESAC Members when the Zero Waste Workshops are scheduled, the members will be included in this process.

6. Monthly Finance Report

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director presented the Financial Report for the month ending in March 2022. Director De La Torre mentioned that the Los Reales Landfill is

still not accepting cash even though other City cashiers have slowly reopened. With the installation of the new scalehouse software program, EGSD would likely continue not accepting cash. Other items were reviewed from the financial report.

It was asked if the ES Enterprise Fund has received any of the revenue for the sale of the Congress and Nearmont Landfills to Rio Nuevo yet to cover the expenses of the remediation project at these landfills.

Director De La Torre informed the Committee that currently no, the Enterprise Fund has not received any funds back. He also noted that City Manager Ortega mentioned to Mayor & Council about the financial obligation to pay back the investment ES made and if Mayor & Council are currently not in favor to increase rates soon, that they should begin repayment with any general fund surplus sooner rather than later.

7. Subcommittee Reports, Appointments, Meeting Dates, and Assignments

- **Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education**

The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee met on April 6, 2022. Subcommittee Member Garcia provided a summary from the meeting. The following items that were discussed at the Subcommittee were monthly Materials Recovery Facility report, an update on glass collection progress, an update on composting, a code enforcement update, and other items.

- **Environmental/Engineering**

No report was given. The Environmental/Engineering Subcommittee did not meet during this time.

- **Finance**

No report was given. The Finance Subcommittee did not meet during this time.

Committee Member Herrier was appointed to the Environmental and Engineering Committee.

Committee Member Suarez Din was appointed to the Finance Committee.

8. Elections

A request for nominations were made. Committee Member Garcia nominated Kris Yarter as Chairperson. Ms. Yarter accepted the nomination as Chairperson. No other nominations were made. A voice vote was held with none opposing, with 7 to 0.

A request for nominations were made. Committee Member Garcia nominated Mr. Herrier as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Herrier accepted the nomination. No other nominations were made. A voice vote was held with none opposing, with 7 to 0.

9. ESAC Bylaws

The ESAC Bylaws and the ESAC ordinance was provided to the committee. Chairperson Yarter shared with the committee at one time ESAC changed from once having 7 members to 13 members. Currently, the City Manager has 6 appointees which has been difficult to fulfill appointments. The number of appointees to ESAC can be changed but it would have to be approved by Mayor & Council. The original intention of having 13 members was to have a variety of technical, financial, environmental backgrounds. It was requested before any changes are done to the ordinance, a request to recruit new members will be done.

10. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Mobile Food License – WDEC

11. Call to the Audience

None.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 P.M.