



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESAC)

Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Approved on June 9, 2022

Virtual Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:06 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

Item 9 – Call to the Audience was done at this time.

9. Call to the Audience

Trevor Ledbetter, future ESAC appointee introduced himself. Mr. Ledbetter is the Director for the Office of Sustainability at the University of Arizona and has worked with EGSD through the Compost Cats program for many years.

Susanna Schippers, future ESAC appointee introduced herself. Ms. Schippers is an Environmental Planner with a local consultant firm and is interested in many department goals like recycling and promoting composting.

2. Approval of Minutes – April 14, 2022

The minutes for April 14, 2022, were unanimously approved as written.

3. Chairperson’s Report

- **ESAC Letter of Recommendation** – After completing a pilot program last year called “Feet on the Street” which tagged contaminated recycling containers, the results positively shown improvements to reduce contamination. The tagging program provided tools, printed materials, and container tags to conduct on-site inspections to inform and educate the residents. A letter was drafted to Mayor & Council to support implementation of the program. The program would require hiring more employees to conduct site inspections, education to the residents and purchase the tools and materials used.

Director De La Torre expressed concerns about sending a letter to Mayor & Council without providing any additional information or details about other factors that impact the department. Discussion was held about improper recycling, commercial vendors abusing residential shared containers and other related issues.

A motion was made by Committee Member Garcia to approve the letter written to Mayor & Council to support the implementation of the new program. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Araiza. Committee Member Herrera opposed the motion. Motion passed by voice vote of 6-1.

4. Director’s Report

No report was given.

5. Zero Waste Discussion

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director provided an update on this item. HDR Consultants are in the process of finalizing the Request for Information (RFI) and will be submitting it within the next few weeks. The RFI will be open for response for about a month. The intent of the RFI is to reach out to various vendors to see what they can offer to help the City reach waste diversion and other sustainable goals.

Committee Member Garcia shared with the committee that she recently met a lady who uses fabric scraps to quilt with and how this is an example of reuse and zero waste. Discussion was held. No action was taken on this item.

6. Monthly Finance Report

Carlos De La Torre, EGSD Director presented the Financial Report for the month ending in April 2022. Director De La Torre pointed out that the landfill fees are above the annual projection by \$1 million and the landfill self-hauler fees are projected \$750,000 higher. The other revenues are within line. Discussion was held. It was requested that the department calculate how much revenue was lost during covid when a flat fee was used verses by weight. Other items were reviewed, and questions were addressed.

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

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

The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee met on May 4, 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, the amendment to the MRF contract, landfill Cell4B construction, route optimization, homeless camp protocols, an update on code enforcement and other items.

Questions were asked and answered.

- **Environmental/Engineering**

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

A meeting is scheduled for the upcoming month.

- **Finance**

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

8. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Recycling Discussion
- Food Vendors

9. Call to the Audience

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 P.M.