



Environmental Services Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 11, 2022
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Approved March 9, 2023

1. Call to Order/Roll Call – 4:02 P.M.

A quorum was established.

Present:

Elvira Suarez Din	Representative, Ward 1
Alfredo Araiza	Representative, Ward 2
Ryan Thomas	Representative, Ward 3
Yolanda Herrera	Representative, Ward 5
Kris Yarter, Chairperson	Representative, Ward 6
Margot Garcia (Joined at 4:07)	Representative, City Manager's Office
Michael Herrier	Representative, City Manager's Office
Susanna Schippers	Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Trevor Ledbetter	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, City Manager's Office
VACANT	Representative, Mayor's Office
VACANT	Representative, Ward 4

Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia	Deputy Director, Environmental & General Services Department (EGSD)
Victoria Molt	Finance Manager, Business Services Department (BSD)
Brittany Aldrich	Staff Assistant, EGSD

2. Approval of Minutes – June 9, 2022 & July 14, 2022

The minutes for June 9, 2022, were tabled.

The minutes for July 14, 2022, were approved with grammatical corrections.

3. Chairperson's Report

No chairperson's report provided.

Item 6 was presented at this time.

6. Monthly Finance Report

Victoria Molt, BSD Finance Manager presented the Financial Report for the month ending in July 2022. The following report reflected the revenues and expenditures. At the month end the FY 2022 Actuals were \$57,962,196, compared to the adopted budget of \$53,331,300. Some changes in the report were the consolidation of salaries under Customer Service, and Waste Reduction and Groundwater Production into the Administration Division. This was done in preparation of the software change to WorkDay, which will be the new accounting, procurement, human resources management system. Committee Member Garcia asked what the final administrative cost will be for FY 2023. Ms. Molt did not have that answer but will provide the information to the members after the meeting. The remainder of the report was reviewed.

No action was taken on this item.

5. Zero Waste Discussion

Andrea Ramirez, an Environmental Engineer with HDR Consultants provided an update on this item. Ms. Ramirez introduced herself and shared the current tasks HDR is working on. HDR is identifying the term-short, long-term and outreach plans that they will use to reach out to the public for input. A Request for Proposal was submitted for consultants to provide short-term project at the Los Reales Sustainability Campus. HDR will be scheduling workshops for stakeholders and staff to begin the conversation about Zero Waste and how Tucson interprets the meaning of the concept.

Committee Members asked questions which Ms Ramirez answered. HDR's next report to the city will be "Processing Technologies" and "Near-term Development" which will be completed in September.

4. Director's Report

Pat L. Tapia, EGSD Deputy Director shared with the committee the following items:

- **Rate Analysis** – NewGen Technical has been hired to complete a rate analysis for our services. The report will be completed by the end of August. The estimated increase is \$6.25 which would be implemented over 2 years. The first increase would be \$3.25; the next year would be \$3.00. The landfill disposal rate would increase by 9% for commercial haulers; from \$32 to \$35. A 10% rate increase is proposed for each commercial account for all services. These rate adjustments would help offset the increasing operating costs. As of now, the estimated increase is \$6.25 which would have a two-year implementation. The first increase would be \$3.25, then the next year will be \$3.00. The landfill disposal rates would also increase but 9% for commercial

haulers from \$32 to \$35. A 10% increase for a commercial account would also be implemented for all commercial services. These rate adjustments would help offset the increasing costs.

Discussion was held. No action was taken.

- **Neighborhood Recycling Centers** – The Mansfield Park and Ward 2 neighborhood recycling centers (NRC) have been closed because of increased illegal dumping at these locations. The glass collection containers will remain at these two sites, but the recycling containers have been removed. The two NRC sites were being serviced every day and had been turned into mini transfer centers which creates a liability since they did not have the proper state issued permits to be operated in this manner. Researching their use, it was found that many of the people using the sites were county residents or from apartments who do not pay for city services.

Discussion was held regarding how to reduce contamination. Ideas included creating a public advertising campaign and emphasizing the City's intent to meet a zero waste goal. Committee member Garcia remarked that implementing the recycling bin inspection program would help educate the public. The study done in Tucson showed it was effective in reducing contamination in the recycling bins.

No action was taken.

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

- **Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education**
The Waste Diversion, Collections, and Education Subcommittee met on August 3, 2022. Subcommittee Member Garcia provided a summary from the meeting. The following items that were discussed at the Subcommittee were a review of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Report, the current MRF contract, an update on the construction of Cell 4B, the homeless camp protocol, electric vehicle, and other items.
- **Environmental/Engineering**
The Environmental/Engineering Subcommittee did not hold a meeting during this time.
- **Finance**
The Finance Subcommittee did not hold a meeting during this time.

8. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next meeting:

- Ward 6 Plastic Collections Program
- Mobile Food Truck Vendors

A request for a follow-up on the Zero Waste progress.

9. Call to the Audience

None.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 P.M.