

MINUTES

West University Place Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Board Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Location: Community Building, John Neighbors Room, 6104 Auden, West University Place, TX

Chair: Monte Edlund

Acting Secretary: Corrin Davis

Board Members Present: David Castillo, Corrin Davis, Monte Edlund, Susan Hawkins, Kathy Hayward, Andrew Hung, Allison Kozdron, Lauren Salomon, Helen Schilling, Michael White

Board Member(s) Absent: None

Staff: David Melgoza,

Council Members: None

Visitors: Susie Hairston (resident, former Board Member)

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the December 2025 RSWRB meeting were approved. Hung motioned, and Hawkins seconded. Approved unanimously.
- III. **Board Business Items:**
 - a. **Report on Xmas tree event @ Colonial, and city-wide light recycling – Davis, Castillo, staff:** Good number of volunteers including some green team volunteers, board members, and six scouts and their parents. About 120 trees with approximately 25 with lights (several with a huge quantity of lights). There were 1,023.4 lbs. of string lights collected this year, from the tree light removal event and from the bins stationed around the City; the lights will be donated to the Houston Zoo tomorrow. For 2027, the City might donate some of the Christmas Trees to an organization in Surfside Beach that uses them to rebuild sand dunes.
 - b. **Mayor's Marathon Breakfast – Edlund, Castillo:** Board volunteers helped residents compost their compostable coffee cups and leftover food. One full barrel of compost was produced by the event. Next year we will encourage the City to decline the plastic giveaways (slinkies and the like) from the Marathon organizing committee.
 - c. **New Neighbors Report – Kozdron:** Doorhangers are ready to be delivered to the latest new West U residents. Kozdron, Hayward, Schilling, and Salomon will deliver within the next two weeks.
 - d. **Data Requirements for RSWRB; Landfill, Recycling, Yard Waste, Compost – All:** There is an issue with obtaining reliable weights from Zero Waste Houston and from Living Earth. PW still working on getting data. Davis will work on a sample of what we need to see from the City for statistics going forward.
 - e. **HHW Plan to present to City Council – All:** Options are WM At Your Door or a contract for the Semi-Annual Recycling/Shred-It event. Melgoza has determined that Harris County Mobile HHW Unit is not an option for the City but is looking into what it would cost to add HHW to the Semi-Annual Recycling

Event. The City currently has vouchers residents to take HHW to COH for 2026 but only as long as the vouchers last. The subcommittee to present the HHW recommendations will be Kozdron and Hayward. Edlund will look into getting on the City Council calendar to present HHW options.

f. Events – Chairs Needed:

- i. WUES STEAM Night (1/28, 5-8pm):** Kozdron, Davis, and Hayward.
 - ii. WUSA (2/7):** Kozdron will chair and Schilling, waste stations only. The Board will reach out to PW about delivery of the waste stations prior to the event (morning of or the day before).
 - iii. WULL (2/21):** Davis & Hayward will chair, waste stations only. If anyone knows the carnival leads, please let them know. The Board will reach out to PW about delivery of the waste stations prior to the event (morning of or the day before).
 - iv. Arts in the Park (2/28, noon-3p):** Castillo will chair, waste stations and a table.
- g. Schedule WM Recycling MRF Tour – Melgoza:** The Board proposed Friday, February 13th, preferably noon or later, for the tour of the WM recycling MRF. It was suggested that Council members be invited to join the tour.
- h. 2026-2027 Board Goals – All:** Proposals for board goals included a compost outpost, curbside composting as a standard offering, pay as you throw trash, recycling education (including Recycling Guidelines – send any feedback on these to Kozdron soon), HHW, further encouraging zero waste methodology in City Departments, and water conservation education (Edlund, Castillo, and White), and boosting the City’s recycling-gearred social media (for example Facebook Information Exchange).

IV. West U Staff Report:

- a. City Recycling & Waste Statistics – Recent and YTD:** TBD.
- b. Food Waste Statistics:** Still waiting for statistics from Zero Waste.
- c. Blue Bin Reorder Status:** The company that molds and stamps the City’s blue recycling bins is still working on the broken equipment. Melgoza hopes to have an update by the February meeting. The City will switch to ordering plain blue bins and adding a decal (instead of stamping).
- d. Currents Articles Deadlines:** The Recycling Board’s upcoming Currents submissions are due: Summer (2/18/2026); Fall (5/26/2026); Winter (8/19/2026).

V. Any Other Business:

- a. Master Recycler Course:** This course is in February and March and is offered through the City. All Board members, particularly all new, are urged to attend if you have not already.

- b. WUES STEAM Night & Art Contest (Kozdron):** TCEQ Take Care of Texas art contest for K-5, with a theme of ways to conserve water or keep water clean. Possibly a way for communications to promote via social media – Melgoza will investigate.
 - c. Composting in Other City Facilities:** It was discussed that Senior Services and the Community Center are using the food waste composting pickup services via Zero Waste. Melgoza agreed to introduce Monte to the Fire Chief to see whether the Fire Station could start composting.
 - d. RSWRB Meeting Times:** White motioned and Hayward seconded that these Board meetings be moved to 6pm start time. It was unanimously approved.
- VI. Adjournment:** By unanimous consent at 7:56pm. Next meeting February 10, 2026, 6:00pm.