

# Environment and Sustainability Committee Meeting Record

The Environment and Sustainability Committee meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at [www.dallascityhall.com](http://www.dallascityhall.com). Recordings may be reviewed/copied by contacting the Environment and Sustainability Committee Coordinator at 214-670-3246.

**Meeting Date:** March 2, 2020

**Convened:** 9:08 a.m.

**Adjourned:** 11:02 a.m.

**Committee Members Present:**

Omar Narvaez, Chair  
Tennell Atkins, Vice Chair  
David Blewett  
Jennifer S. Gates

**Committee Members Absent:**

Paula Blackmon

**Other Council Members Present:**

N/A

**Presenters:**

Liz Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity & Inclusion  
James McGuire, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability  
Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability  
Kara J. Casey, PhD, Urban Agriculture and Renewable Resources at El Centro College  
Tim Oliver, Interim Director, Dallas Sanitation Services Department  
Danielle McClelland, Zero Waste Division Manager, Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability

## AGENDA

Call to Order (9:08 a.m.)

### 1. Approval of the February 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Presenter(s):** Omar Narvaez, Chair

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** A motion was made to approve the minutes for the February 3, 2020 Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting.

Motion made by: Tennell Atkins  
Item passed unanimously: X  
Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: David Blewett  
Item passed on a divided vote:  
Item failed on a divided vote:

### 2. Local Sustainably Grown Food in North Texas

**Presenter(s):** Kara J. Casey, PhD, Director Urban Agriculture and Renewable Resources at El Centro College

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Kara J. Casey presented an overview of the benefits of Urban Agriculture. Three benefits of Urban Agriculture; Community Pride, Opportunity and Education were mentioned. CM Blewett asked about cost considerations in relation to community-oriented gardening. Kara J. Casey provided information about a number of grant programs that provide resources for such gardening programs. CM Atkins asked about maintaining a community garden. Kara J. Casey responded with information about the maintenance of a community garden, and the occasional need of paid positions to ensure longevity. CM Atkins emphasized outreach to the community. Chairman Narvaez commended the community building aspect of the community garden programs. Information only.

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### 3. CECAP: Access to Health, Local Sustainably Grown Food

**Presenter(s):** Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Assistant Director Susan Alvarez presented an overview of food sustainability and security in Dallas. She also detailed current food initiatives, community feedback, and draft CECAP food objectives and strategies. CM Atkins asked about the equitable access of local sustainably grown food. CM Blewett asked about greenhouses. Ms. Alvarez said that greenhouses could be a good idea and that they are looking at strip malls and other lots as potential spaces for greenhouses, but did include that there are large startup costs associated with greenhouses. Chairman Narvaez asked about what is considered locally sources. Ms. Alvarez responded that is a point of contention, but that if you can transport food within a day it is typically considered locally sourced. Chairman Narvaez also asked about how to ensure that community gardens practice sustainable agriculture. Ms. Alvarez said that the community members at these gardens are typically very adherent to sustainable agriculture. Information only.

### 4. CECAP: Dallas is a Zero-Waste Community

**Presenters:** Tim Oliver, Interim Director, Dallas Sanitation Services Department and Danielle McClelland, Zero Waste Division Manager, Office of Environmental Quality and Sustainability

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):** Interim Director Tim Oliver presented an overview of sanitation services such as the Zero Waste Plan status, draft CECAP plan and focus, and community feedback. Division Manager Danielle McClelland provided an overview of the Zero Waste Plan. CM Gates asked if they are ensuring that recycling is taking place or if the containers are just in place. Division Manager McClelland said they have a checklist that include if they have the containers, and if they have the minimum number capacity. She also said, however, that they do not go looking into the containers specifically. CM Gates followed to ask if recycling can be ensured. CM Blewett asked if there is a possibility to recycle paper and plastics. Division Manager McClelland answered that the City of Dallas does currently have a buyer for recycled paper and plastic, but that the market is stronger for plastic. Chairman Narvaez asked if there is a way to put into the point system that will encourage using recycled products. Information only.

Adjourn (11:02 a.m.)

**APPROVED BY:**

Omar Narvaez, Chair  
Environment and Sustainability Committee

**ATTESTED BY:**

Yolanda Ramirez, Coordinator  
Environment and Sustainability Committee