

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF April 16, 2014

Item No. 1 being:

ROLL CALL

The Environmental Control Advisory Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session at the City of Norman, in the Multi-Purpose Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street April 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. Notice and Agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building at 201 West Gray 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT	Amanda Nairn (Chair) Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong Corson Hirschfeld Odette Horton Aaron Pilat
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MEMBERS ABSENT	Linda Goeringer (Vice Chair) Zac Abbott James Harp
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Debbie Smith, Environmental Svcs. Coordinator Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer
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Item No. 2 being:

INTRODUCE GUESTS

GUESTS PRESENT	Ken Komiske, Utilities Director, arrived at 6:30 p.m.
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Item No. 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 12, 2014 MEETING

Amanda Nairn asked if there were any corrections to the March 12, 2014 minutes. There being none, Pilat made a motion to approve the March 12, 2014 minutes. Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn Darren Alexander Holly Armstrong Corson Hirschfeld Odette Horton Aaron Pilat
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

REPORT ON BIG EVENT

Door hangars with water conservation information and fertilizer ordinance information were distributed by OU students. Nairn stated that she and Smith met and went through a City Street Atlas and chose neighborhoods to target. They also had input from the Ken Komiske, Utilities Director, and Joe Willingham, Stormwater Engineer. Heavily dense neighborhoods and neighborhoods with problem detention ponds were some of the areas focused on. Smith said about nine to ten thousand door hangars were distributed. Smith thought it was successful but a few changes need to be made if ECAB decides to do this again next year. Next year, the number of houses need to be determined per map page and door hangars distributed accordingly. Thomas said GIS could do this. Pilat suggested we could also have someone drive around and distribute more door hangars to groups that run out. This year 250 students were requested. Next year, ECAB could request 400 students.

Item No. 5 being:

DISCUSS YARD OF THE MONTH

Armstrong said last year the Board was talking about calling it Yard of the Month, but there was discussion about changing the name. Water's Worth It Landscape Award was chosen as the name after much discussion. A sign will be made to put in the yard, preferably corrugated plastic. Additional prizes will be discussed at future meetings. The nominations will need to be turned in by the June Meeting and presented at the July 8th Council meeting. Also at the July Council Meeting, ECAB will have a Water's Worth It Proclamation. Specific rules will not be laid out because this may make it too restrictive. This may help increase nominations. If there are too many nominations, this can be changed in the future. A business category could be added in the future also. All ECAB members will submit at least one nomination and it cannot be an ECAB member. Nominees need to be asked if they want their yard to be entered. Smith will send Armstrong the latest revision. The nomination deadline will be June 9th. The press release can be sent out before the next meeting to give enough time for nominations to be submitted. Armstrong made a motion that the Water's Worth It Landscape Award will be sent out with the discussed edits before the next meeting with a deadline of June 9th, 2014. Nairn seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Amanda Nairn
 Darren Alexander
 Holly Armstrong
 Corson Hirschfeld
 Odette Horton
 Aaron Pilat

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 6. Being:

PLAN EARTH DAY EVENT

Smith said ECAB will have a table and booth. Help is needed to man the booth. T-shirts will be sold at the booth to help fund the next earth day. The event will be April 27th from noon to five. Smith will have the booth set up. Smith will send out an email to the Board for signing up. Goeringer will probably not be at the event to present the poster contest awards so Nairn has been asked to help Horton.

Item No. 7 being:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development Block Grant Committee (CDBG) – (D. Alexander) – no report

Item No. 8 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Ken Komiske came to the meeting to explain the situation with the sale of water to the drilling company. He said the company is buying Norman's potable water to drill a well. The City of Norman rents hydrant meters for the sale of water. The City has 60 meters that they rent. The water is used for many purposes. The City cannot discriminate on who they rent a meter to or who they sell water to. The drilling company has had the meter for about a month and so far they have used 540,000 gallons. If Norman does not sell them water, the drilling company can buy water from other entities and haul it or drill their own water well. The problem with hauling water is that it can damage roads. It is unknown if they will be fracking. He also said the utility is not the right tool if people are unhappy with fracking. Hirschfeld stated that fracking was very controversial and he had concerns about it. He is concerned about earthquakes, water contamination, and water quantity. Nairn asked if the company would be able to frack in the peak of the summer when we may be short of water. Komiske stated that in the summer the City has had to purchase water from Oklahoma City. In high use times, there can be conditions to selling water. A Board member asked if they could use gray water or re-use water. Komiske stated that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's (ODEQ) rules will not let the drilling company use gray water or effluent for this purpose but ODEQ is reviewing this now. Many members mentioned it was a PR nightmare because we are asking customers to conserve water and the City sells water to whoever wants to buy it. Currently, the City cannot discriminate. Nairn told the group that there is a Council Committee meeting that is open to the public later this month and if you have an opinion on this she recommends attending the meeting. Komiske will let Smith know when he finds out when the meeting will be scheduled so she can let the Board know.

Armstrong suggested having a Water's Worth It business partner and highlight businesses that conserve water. Nairn suggested brainstorming in the future about business partners and how it could be measured and how this could be done. Smith mentioned that the Chamber's Greenovation committee has recognition for businesses and it is very difficult to get businesses to apply for these.

Item No. 9 being:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

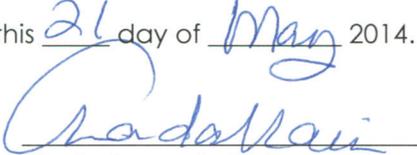
None

Item No. 10 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Passed and approved this 21 day of May 2014.


Chair, Amanda Nairn

