

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF
March 10, 2021**

Item No. 1 being:

ROLL CALL

The Environmental Control Advisory Board of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Special Session at the City of Norman, in the Executive Conference Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street using Zoom Technology for video conference due to COVID-19 on March 10, 2021 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 Matthew Rom (Chair)
 Dane Heins
 Deborah Cretsinger
 Robert Vollmar
 Courtney DeKalb-Myers
 Sara Bondy
 Jim Griffith

MEMBERS ABSENT Traci Gold

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT Debbie Smith, Environmental Services Manager
 Carrie Evenson, Stormwater Program Manager
 Jerry Gates, Environmental Services Asst. Manager
 Nathan Madenwald, Utilities Engineer
 Michele Loudenback, Stormwater Program Specialist

Item No. 2 being:

INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS Sara Bondy & Jim Griffith

Item No. 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2020 MEETING

Cretsinger made a motion to approve the October 21, 2020 minutes. Vollmar seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Matthew Rom (Chair)
 Dane Heins
 Deborah Cretsinger
 Robert Vollmar
 Courtney DeKalb-Myers
 Sara Bondy

Jim Griffith

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

NOMINATE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Heins was nominated for Chair by Vollmar.

Vollmar made a motion to approve the nomination for Chair. Rom seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Matthew Rom (Chair)
Dane Heins
Deborah Cretsinger
Robert Vollmar
Courtney DeKalb-Myers
Sara Bondy
Jim Griffith

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

DeKalb-Myers was nominated for Vice Chair by Cretsinger.

Cretsinger made a motion to approve the nomination for Vice Chair. Rom seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Matthew Rom (Chair)
Dane Heins
Deborah Cretsinger
Robert Vollmar
Courtney DeKalb-Myers
Sara Bondy
Jim Griffith

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Item No. 5 being:

DISCUSS YARD BY YARD

Cretsinger wants to put forward that we should just jump on the band wagon of Kevin Mink who put together the yard by yard program instead of reworking the program. She would like to know what the members' opinions are on it. The good thing is that this program actually handles the certifications. Vollmar likes the idea of using an already existing infrastructure as long as it advances the sound ecological principals that we unite behind and that we are not introducing a lot of cost. Heins seconded what Vollmar said. Heins believes that it will also allow us to do more with our resources. Smith asked if Cretsinger could get her the contact information for the yard by yard program so that we can start getting stuff put together for disbursement. Myers is open to seeing how the program goes but has heard that it is very restrictive as far as who can apply. Cretsinger asked Dekalb-Myers what restrictions she heard about and she explained that HOA's require certain things such as no pesticides. Cretsinger said that she asked Kevin Mink about that as well and that he said that they are pretty flexible because they understand HOA's requirements. Smith said that we don't have it as an action item for this meeting but she can put it on there for the next meeting so they can vote on it. Heins said that it seems like everyone is interested, we will take some time to look over it more and put it to a vote. We need help with getting the word out there and this should be great for that.

Item No. 6 being:

DISCUSS GUIDELINES AND CERTIFICATION FOR SUSTAINABLE YARD OF THE MONTH

Heins stated that since we just went over the Yard by Yard we won't need to go over the Sustainable Yard of the Month. We will discuss everything further next month.

Item No. 7 being:

DISCUSS/APPROVE PRIZE OPTIONS/RECOGNITION FOR POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Smith said that the poster contest usually stars in January but we are not going to have that this year. Do we want to do it for past winners or wait till next year and go forward from there? Cretsinger asked if the past winners got their prizes. Smith said that the past winners don't even know they won. Cretsinger asked if it was possible to at least notify them. Cretsinger said that she thought we had prizes for them. Smith explained that there were prizes but they weren't "social distancing" prizes and some placed may not even still be open. Dekalb-Myers said that she knows there was discussion of putting an article in the transcript about the earth day that never happened. Now that we are coming up on the new earth day we could do a more elaborate piece about this earth day, last earth day and announcing the winners. Heins said that he thought we had a consensus that it was going to be too expensive for us to take out an ad but we liked the idea of coming up with a narrative and pitching a story related to it. He explains that the whole thing is kind of like a sad story and isn't sure if we have interest or if it is even a good idea at this point and asked the members their opinions. Vollmar said that in his heart he wants the kids to know that they are wonderful and they have a beautiful talent and that we really appreciate it but that nobody remembers it but us. He can't imagine that there is a kid out there that is upset about this. It is a sad story and we don't really have a way to make amends, what if we just kick dirt on it and stop talking about it. Dekalb-Myers said that she does kind of agree, to move on and start planning for what we can do. Rom stated that he thought that was what was discussed in October as well and also agrees with Vollmar. Heins agrees that we need to move on and start focusing on the next thing.

Heins made a motion to disapprove any prizes or recognition. Vollmar Seconded, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Matthew Rom (Chair)
 Dane Heins
 Deborah Cretsinger
 Robert Vollmar
 Courtney DeKalb-Myers
 Sara Bondy
 Jim Griffith
 Deborah Cretsinger

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Item No. 8 being:

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA TOPIS

Heins passed it over to Vollmar. Vollmar said he thinks there were 3 total posts that were approved for improving public awareness on plastics, composting and also suggested the rain water barrel program but the window for that has since passed. He is a fan of moving forward with the plastics and composting. Said if we could get some feedback from the cities social media manager about how many times were the posts that we gave them circulated, what kind of reaction did they receive. Smith said she will schedule a meeting with her and see what kind of information we can get from her. Vollmar is in favor of everyone getting together and putting a comprehensive plan together for a composting outreach. Vollmar said he wasn't sure if they could have working groups. Smith said they could have working groups as long as there is not a quorum. If they have more than five members then they have to post the meetings, take minutes and invite the public. Which we can do. Heins said 4 people tops in this group contributing. He is glad to help with any graphics or visual components of these campaigns. He asked if there was anyone else who would like to help out on them. Dekalb-Myers said she would help out. Bondy said she can help too if needed. Vollmar asked if we can conduct the working group by email as long as it is just the four of them? Smith said yes and said that it would be helpful if they would include her on the emails. Cretsinger wonders if they should be putting out more information than what is going out currently. Not just about composting but even reminders about recycling and water use. She asked if that has ever been done. Smith said it has been done in the past but it's been a couple of years since we've had that done. She isn't sure if there have been some changes in rules on social media which is why she needs to meet with her so we can find out what we can do and how often we can do it. There have been several posts that she was told would go out but she never seen them so she is a little confused as to why they aren't going out. She would like to get a little more information from her and see what we can do.

Heins made a motion to approve having a campaign focusing on composting and moving forward with the group to develop some content for it. Vollmar seconded, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Matthew Rom (Chair)
 Dane Heins
 Deborah Cretsinger

Robert Vollmar
Courtney DeKalb-Myers
Sara Bondy
Jim Griffith
Deborah Cretsinger

NAYS None

Item No. 9 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Heins asked if there was anything anyone would like to add. Smith said that she would like to mention the cart recycling that is going on. They are needing volunteers to go around neighborhoods and look in carts and tag them if they are doing a good job. Don't touch anything just look in the cart to see if they are recycling properly. Once tagged they will be notified of who is doing a good job and they will get a certificate. She will email the sign up for it. She recommends doing it with somebody. They will meet at 7 AM for about an hour. They won't know the areas they are going to until that day. She also wanted to discuss Earth Day. The mayor has decided to do a few things for it. Things that she will probably bring up in the next meeting for volunteers. Things like help with the farmer's market promotion, tree planting, yoga in the park and different things like that. She said that she could use some help April 10th at Andrews Park for the Big Event Day Clean Up. They are going to do the 4 main parks: Andrews, Reaves, Sutton and Ruby Grant. She will email out all this information to the board. Evenson also has quite a few things going on. The first thing was Wood Creek Park Clean up from 1-3. March 27th at 12th avenue SE from Boyd to Lindsey from 1-3 clean up. Rain Barrel Distribution event April 2nd & 3rd. April 11th is the Grin and Pick Your Water Shed Event. It's a dual clean up, one at Prairie Creek Park and the other at Chisolm's Cattle Trail Park from 1-3. April 18th is the Great American Clean up Event at Colonial Estates from 1-3. The 3rd annual Artful Inlets Installation April 29th and 30th which will be virtual. Evenson reminded everyone about the art totes that were purchased for schools and suggested that we discuss at a later meeting what the future holds for those totes. Heins asked if we can turn that into an agenda item for the next meeting. Smith thanked Rom and appreciates all he has done for the board. Heins welcomed the new members again.

Item No. 10 being:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Item No. 11 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Passed and approved this 21st day of April 2021.

Dane Heins

Chair, Dane Heins