

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF May 16, 2018

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 Study Session Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on May 16, 2018 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)
 Matthew Rom (Vice-Chair)
 Larissa Balzer (arrived at 5:39)
 Eli Bridge
 James Harp
 Dane Heins
 Aaron Pilat
 Andrew Sartain

MEMBERS ABSENT Patricia Edge

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT Debra Smith, Environmental Services Coordinator
 Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer
 Kellie Seeds, Water Reclamation Admin. Tech. III

Item No. 2 being

INTRODUCE GUESTS

Evan Dunn, Citizens Solutions

Item No. 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 18, 2018 MEETING

Heins made a motion to approve or amend the April 18, 2018 minutes. Rom seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Amanda Nairn
 Matthew Rom
 Eli Bridge
 James Harp
 Dane Heins
 Aaron Pilat
 Andrew Sartain

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

SELECT SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLIC EDUCATION TOPICS

Nairn and Smith suggested skipping forward to the Landscape Award and delaying any voting on social media topics to see if Balzer was going to show up. Smith prompted a short discussion with Heins about the use of hashtags in social media and how they are utilized to gather information on Facebook. Nairn asked if the Board was informing citizens that they had the power to nominate people for the Landscape Award. It was suggested to add a link for nomination to the form. Nairn noted that she likes including "#ECAB" so that the Board can follow who is talking about ECAB. Upon Smith's question, Heins said that he thought the hashtag would work for nominations.

Upon Balzer's arrival, Nairn again noted that she wanted to add the link for the nomination form to Balzer's graphic posted to Facebook, with Balzer's approval. It was noted that no one was using the "#NormanECAB" hashtag to nominate properties. Balzer noted that the problem with URLs is that they tend to be very long. The Board discussed the possibility of providing a shortened link.

Bridge shared that plastic bags were in the news and that he had photo evidence. Nairn suggested doing a general post about the environmental impact of plastic bags, but to wait until there was more public discussion on the matter first. Pilat prompted a discussion on the Board's authority to endorse such social media topics. Harp suggested a topic on raising incentive to avoid use of plastic bags at stores. Nairn and Smith noted that there are several businesses that currently do this. Harp suggested writing a post to acknowledge the businesses that currently implement such practices. Balzer commented that she was not sure they were allowed to do that, and Sartain followed up noting that the Board was allowed to post to encourage and engage conversation. Nairn stated that they could try, and if it was an issue then Claudia Deakins would tell them no. Dunn mentioned that he could talk to businesses that currently implement these practices. Smith replied that they had discussed the matter before, but that they wanted to avoid advertising. A discussion followed on the various ways that the Board could engage the public on general topics regarding plastic bags and the environment.

Balzer noted that the Landscape Award would be recurring for the next several months and asked if she needed to post on social media every time. Smith said she would speak with Claudia Deakins first, because there are rules on how often similar topics can be posted. There was a brief discussion over bicycles and if Claudia Deakins would be able to provide analytical feedback based on social media activity. Nairn summarized that they would include the Landscape Award and sprinkler use in their social media topics for this month.

Item No. 5 being:

DISCUSS LANDSCAPE AWARD

Sartain provided pictures of four nominated properties with their corresponding addresses, explaining that he focused on drought tolerant features. There was a brief discussion on rain barrels—how no one seems to have them in their front yard in Norman, and how Oklahoma City has a rule prohibiting rain barrels beyond a certain size in the front yard. Nairn stated that the

Board needed to enact more PR to encourage more nominations from the public. Thomas suggested contacting Claudia Deakins again. Sartain suggested including back yards in the nominations. Smith noted that the whole point of the award is to encourage other people to follow similar practices. Nairn said that she had never overruled backyards, and Thomas noted that a backyard had been awarded in the past. Nairn commented that it would be nice to have a business yard awarded again. Upon Nairn asking if anyone would like to nominate any of the four properties, Bridge suggested selecting the two neighboring properties. Rom suggested the property at 3904 Morrison Circle with the cactus plants. Nairn asked Smith if she had the signs and if Sartain would be able to deliver the prize. Balzer initiated a discussion on contacting new organizations instead of using their current voucher if it was still valid. There was a unanimous decision to nominate the Morrison Circle property as the winner.

Bridge made a motion to nominate 3904 Morrison Circle as the winner for the Landscape Award. Rom seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Amanda Nairn
 Matthew Rom
 Eli Bridge
 James Harp
 Dane Heins
 Aaron Pilat
 Andrew Sartain

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 7 to 0.

Item No. 6 being:

WATER'S WORTH IT PROCLAMATION

Nairn asked if anyone would not be able to attend the June or July meeting, and if not, to please inform the Board ahead of time. Smith, Thomas, and Seeds would likely be absent for the June meeting. Since Smith would be gone, Nairn suggested voting on the Water's Worth It Proclamation now, so that Smith could work on it ahead of time. Thomas passed out the document and explained edits that had been made. Upon discussion of the possibility of altering the order and wording of the Proclamation, the Board decided to leave the wording untouched in order to preserve the original Water Environment Federation document that began with and was originally adopted by Norman's ECAB.

Sartain made a motion to do the Water's Worth It Proclamation in July with the edit of one typo under item number 7. Balzer seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Amanda Nairn
 Matthew Rom
 Larissa Balzer
 Eli Bridge
 James Harp
 Dane Heins
 Aaron Pilat

Andrew Sartain

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Item No. 7 being:

UPDATE ON US MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT AND NEXT STEPS

Nairn thanked everyone who was able to attend last week's study session—as well as any of those who emailed—and acknowledged that Rom was invited to and attended the Mayor's monthly round table gathering. Nairn explained that Councilman Bill Hickman had asked City Manager Steve Lewis to look into hiring a Sustainability Coordinator, but that she was unsure if Council will approve that or not right now. Based upon the lack of questions asked, Nairn elaborated that it was obvious Council had not read the document. She noted that the overall comments at the study session were positive, and that the infancy of the implementation of this document would come with a subcommittee of ECAB that should involve community members. Thomas asked how these members would be selected. Rom elaborated that ECAB would supply the actual members, who would then invite individuals of the community to join. Nairn stated that Mayor Lynne Miller requested the inclusion of Ready for 100. She explained that if Mayor Miller was asked to create a new committee entirely, she would have to appoint members and it would take much longer. Nairn asked who would be interested in serving on the subcommittee, to which Sartain and Rom both volunteered. Nairn elaborated that the subcommittee would not begin until after summer. Balzer asked if ECAB members could be involved if they initially helped create parts of the document. Smith asked if members of the subcommittee would have the ability to change based upon the topics being discussed. Harp asked if they could just devote a couple of ECAB meetings to the cause. Rom mentioned that Mayor Miller was interested in the Board creating an outline of how goals could be achieved. Bridge prompted the idea of designating multiple committees for different action items alongside an ECAB meeting, explaining that he would join in on a committee with more tangible goals beyond just pushing the document. Nairn stated that the Board would probably have to vote on the creation of a subcommittee. Rom commented that they needed to get a better handle on what Mayor Miller wants.

Nairn suggested inviting Mayor Miller to the next ECAB meeting to have a larger conversation on the matter. Balzer suggested having Mayor Miller attend the August meeting since all of the Board members were committed to attend at that time. The Board discussed the difficulty of moving forward with the document since some of the action items are simple while others are not. Balzer suggested outlining what ECAB wanted to accomplish to the City of Norman. Rom explained that they needed to have tangible things for the City to strive towards that could then be sent to Council. Nairn noted that these tasks may then go on to appropriate departments within the City. The Board briefly discussed priorities and items connected to current events, such as the environmental effects of plastic bags. Sartain suggested that the subcommittee could work on items that would take more time while ECAB focused on the lower hanging fruit. Nairn explained that stakeholders would still be responsible for their work and that ECAB would just act as the clearing house for information. ECAB did not have the authority to make budgetary decisions or policies, but it could make resolutions. Nairn said the Board would wait on any decisions until next month when Mayor Miller would be there. She said the subcommittee could end up being on the same night as ECAB, before or after the meeting, but that she could not see it meeting more than once a month. Balzer commented that it seemed

strange for the Board to outline a strategy when they, as a group, could not actually take action. Nairn explained that there was a very specific line in their document that mostly dealt with City building infrastructure and policies, adding that the community may come in and add something else. Thomas emphasized that professional staff members and various stakeholders should be involved, not just friends.

At 6:30 p.m. next Tuesday the 22nd, City Council would decide if they were going to accept the resolution and document of the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. Directly following, City Council would then be presented with the resolution from Ready for 100.

Item No. 8 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Smith explained that she had an updated document containing the contact information for each Board member and supporting City staff member. Upon Nairn's inquiry on whether or not there were any comments or questions, Evan asked what the process would be to change the 12" rule for grass as listed in the City ordinances. Nairn explained that he would have to find a Council member who would be interested in changing the ordinance, as any of those changes must be approved by Council. Thomas elaborated that it also has to be approved by Legal.

Item No. 9 being:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

Item No. 10 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Passed and approved this 20 day of June 2018.


Chair, Amanda Nairn