

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF October 17, 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 October 17, 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) Larissa Balzer Patricia Edge (left at 6:00) Dane Heins Aaron Pilat Andrew Sartain
-----------------	---

MEMBERS ABSENT	Matthew Rom (Vice-Chair) Eli Bridge James Harp
----------------	--

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Debra Smith, Environmental Services Coordinator Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer Carrie Evenson, Stormwater Manager Michelle Loudenback, Stormwater Program Specialist
-----------------------	--

Item No. 2 being

INTRODUCE GUESTS

Karen Blasier, Sierra Club
Zheng Qi, OU Student Media

Item No. 3 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2018 MEETING

Edge made a motion to approve the September 19, 2018 minutes. Heins seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Amanda Nairn Larissa Balzer Patricia Edge Dane Heins Aaron Pilat Andrew Sartain
------	--

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

DISCUSS SUBCOMMITTEE FOR US MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Nairn noted that Karen—present at the meeting—is a subcommittee member. She reported that there were no updates for the subcommittee, and it has not met since the previous meeting. Rom is trying to get a representative from OEC or OG&E to speak next month. Karen Blasier inquired on whom specifically may be speaking, to which Nairn responded that she could email Rom and ask.

Item No. 5 being:

LANDSCAPE AWARD

Sartain announced that the rain barrel was delivered, but that he could not get Mark Howery to place the winner's sign in his yard or participate in a video recording. There was a brief discussion on how to convince winners to place the sign in their yard. Howery recommended the back yard of a nearby neighbor as a nomination. Sartain obtained a scroll-by video, as well as several photos. The Board discussed whether or not to award back yards. Balzer asked if the City could enforce codes or guidelines with HOAs regarding their yards. Pilat mentioned that the City can dictate zoning ordinances. Nairn suggested the possibility of having residents grow specific native grass types and supplying proof of such grass in order to have permission to grow their yard to a greater length. The Board discussed the possibility of having waivers created for this, and then providing a sign for their yard if they are eligible. Nairn suggested gathering data on the relationship between growing out their grass and water bill savings. Evenson suggested including information on lower maintenance grass types that will save time and increase convenience. Pilat noted that the responsibility of the HOA is to maintain a consistent appearance of yards within the neighborhood. Sartain prompted a discussion on the use of rocks instead of grass in yards. Balzer initiated a discussion on the legality of HOA regulations contradicting City ordinances. Nairn noted that the purpose of the Landscape Award was to encourage more residents to grow environmentally friendly yards. It was suggested to see how HOA presidents could be convinced to attend an educational meeting or workshop on water conservation. The Board continued to discuss HOAs, regulations, and how to incentivize water-friendly yards. Sartain revisited the idea of providing an online application to nominate yards for the Landscape Award.

Item No. 6 being:

SELECT SOCIAL MEDIA PUBLIC EDUCATION TOPICS

Nairn announced that the City of Norman hired a new Chief Communications Officer: Annahlyse Meyer. She transferred from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Nairn reported that she discussed ECAB's social media topics with Meyer, and she really liked the idea. The Board discussed having Meyer come to a future ECAB meeting. Nairn shared that Meyer thought it was odd that committees were not allowed to have sub-social media pages. Thomas

said that Ken Komiske would be happy to do the video on flushable wipes. Balzer suggested talking to Meyer about the video. Nairn said the Board needed to make a list of possible content they wanted to include on social media and convey those items to Meyer. Nairn requested the topic of recycling for social media, with a possible campaign as opposed to a single post. Sartain's video will be the only social media post for this month. It was suggested that Meyer be invited to the November meeting. Smith agreed to invite her.

Item No. 7 being:

DISCUSS BIG EVENT

Nairn reminded the Board that last year ECAB did park cleanups. The Board agreed that it was not very successful. Smith said that a volunteer would have to be at each site if they were going to do the same activity again. Balzer suggested doing the same strategy, but with less park sites. Smith stated that the Board would need to decide what they wanted to do by the next meeting. Balzer asked what activities they were allowed to do. Nairn noted that Big Event was their biggest opportunity to make an impact. Evenson mentioned the success of the cleanup around the Transfer Station. Balzer summarized the issues that she ran into with her student group during the last Big Event. Nairn suggested sending 200 students to one park—like Sutton Wilderness Park—and having 5 volunteers monitoring them. The Board discussed the issues with asking students to clean up trash behind thick tree lines. Evenson brought up Loudonback's possible project of storm drain working. Big Event will be April 13th, 2019. Nairn requested that the Board think about ideas and return next month with their suggestions.

Item No. 8 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Nairn announced that Councilmember Breea Clark, Chair of the Council Oversight Committee, was discussing plastic bag ordinances at a previous meeting. Councilmember Clark emailed Nairn and requested a copy of the Mayors' Climate Agreement.

Smith clarified that the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Banquet would be on Friday, November 30th.

Nairn and Smith announced that the ECAB meeting would be a week early for the next month.

Smith stated that the Household Hazardous Waste event would be October 20th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and that she is very short on volunteers. Sartain said he would try to help if he was available. Nairn said that it is a lot of fun to work the event.

There was a brief discussion on the current situation with the Bird scooters in Norman.

Loudonback announced that Stormwater's rain barrel promotion is now up and running online. Evenson said they are receiving enough positive feedback to make this an annual event. Loudonback announced the Third-Annual Lake Thunderbird Cleanup and Workshop on November 3rd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the state park. There will also be the last Blitz Cleanup on October 28th in the Little Axe disc golf and park area from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Item No. 9 being:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

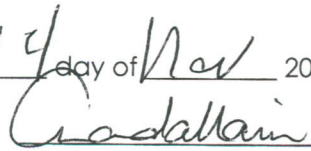
There were no questions from the public.

Item No. 10 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Passed and approved this 14 day of Nov 2018.


Chair, Amanda Nairn