

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2019

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 Executive Conference Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on December 18, 2019 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)
Traci Baker
Courtney DeKalb-Myers
James Harp
Dane Heins
Andrew Sartain
Robert Vollmar

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Debra Smith, Environmental Services Manager
Chris Mattingly, Capital Projects Engineer
Carrie Evenson, Stormwater Program Manager
Michele Loudenback, Stormwater Program Specialist

Item No. 2 being.

INTRODUCE NEW ECAB MEMBERS TRACI BAKER, COURTNEY DEKALB-MYERS AND ROBERT VOLLMAR

Members and staff introduced themselves. Baker said she is the front desk manager at Days Inn. She is also an OU student and will graduate in May. Vollmar works as a magazine editor for World Literature Today magazine. He is also in a master's program studying sustainability and resilience in the industrial food system. DeKalb-Myers said she is a Cleveland County Horticulturist Educator with OSU extension.

Item No. 3 being:

INTRODUCE GUESTS

Karen Blasier, Ready for 100
Tom McCurdy, OGE

Item No. 4 being:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2019 MEETING

Sartain made a motion to approve the November 20, 2019 minutes. Rom seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS Amanda Nairn (Chair)
 Matthew Rom (Vice-Chair)
 Traci Baker
 Courtney DeKalb-Myers
 James Harp
 Dane Heins
 Andrew Sartain
 Robert Vollmar

NAYS None

The motion passed by a vote of 8 to 0.

Item No. 5 being:

UPDATE ON US MAYORS' CLIMATE PROTECTION (MCP) AGREEMENT

Rom said the agreement covers a wide range of issues. Smith said she would send the document to the new members. Rom said that Mayor Haralson signed the agreement around 2003. ECAB came up with some recommendations so the city could meet these goals. A few years ago ECAB reviewed and updated the recommendations and presented this to council. About a year and a half ago, Mayor Miller again asked ECAB to look at this, determine what the city has done and update the recommendations. An ECAB subcommittee was formed to work on this. These recommendations will be presented to council in March after review and approval by the Board. Nairn mentioned these recommendations are for city workings and operations, not necessarily for residents and what they do at home. Nairn pointed out that the group can correspond through email but no to "reply all" because it could be considered a walking quorum which is a violation of the Open Meeting Act.

Item No. 6 being:

DISCUSS INFOGRAPHICS FOR RECYCLING BIN IN THE CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Rom said that when he first came on the board, one of his biggest concerns was that if we were a city promoting recycling we didn't have public recycling in city hall. It took a while but we now have a recycling bin in city hall. Now he would like some kind of infographic above the bin. He said he was working with Heins on this. One of the things Norman touts is that 92% of residents recycles. He would like to see the actual diversion rates; what percentage isn't going to landfills. The compost diversion would be included. He would like to also list what can and cannot be recycled. As of January 1st plastics #1 and #2 will be the only plastics that can be recycled and glass will no longer be picked up curbside. Glass from the drop-off sites will still be recycled. Nairn pointed out that this is not a local issue, recycling companies all over the United States are doing this. There is not a source for these items. Vollmar asked if we could educate the public on how to determine which plastics are recyclable. Nairn said it is something the board is interested in and have tried to educate the public in the past. Heins said we may be able to come up with a succinct image campaign for social media on what is recyclable. Sartain mentioned a video

could be good. Nairn stated that most plastics that people would recycle are #1 and #2, the #3-#7 recyclables are not very common. They are things like PVC pipe, things you aren't recycling every day. Vollmar said that may be valuable information to share. Nairn asked Heins and Rom to see if they could find out what percentage of plastics that Norman residents recycle are #3-#7.

Item No. 7 being:

DISCUSS POTENTIAL ART BARREL PROGRAM

Nairn said in the spring one of ECAB's educational programs is a children's Poster Contest having to do with water. The rules for the poster contest will be voted on and approved next month. The contest is broken down into three groups; Kindergarten – 1st Grade, 2nd – 3rd Grade and 4th – 5th Grade. There are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each group, a grand prize winner and a people's choice winner. These winners are selected at the March meeting. In April, all of the posters are displayed at Stash. At Stash, the people vote for the People's Choice Award. The winners are recognized at Earth Day. Carrie Evenson, suggested getting rain barrels and having the winning posters wrapped on the barrel. The barrel could be shown during the poster display at Artwalk. There could be a raffle or something like that for the barrels. The raffle could occur at the Earth Day Festival. Evenson said she has found someone to wrap the barrels and they could be done in that time frame and be ready for the April Artwalk. The cost would involve buying the barrels and having them wrapped. She doesn't know what this cost is yet, but will let ECAB know.

Item No. 8 being:

DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA TOPICS

Nairn said Larissa Balzer was responsible for this in the past and she is no longer on the board. Vollmar said he would be happy to take this over. Nairn stated that we started with two a month but haven't done any the last few months. She thought this was a good number. Nairn said topics would be chosen by the board. Vollmar would then put something together and forward it to Nairn and Smith. If no edits were needed they would then be forwarded to Annahlyse Meyer, Chief Communication Officer, and she would put on Facebook. Sartain occasionally makes videos that are posted. Sartain said a video about what is changing about recycling would be good to post. He will try to work on this over the holidays. Vollmar said it would be good to coordinate with the video so some of the images could be used. Heins said he could help also, since he is a graphic designer. Next month we can promote the poster contest and Artwalk.

Item No. 9 being:

DISCUSS BIG EVENT

Nairn said ECAB always participates in the Big Event. This year it will be April 18th. The last couple of years, park clean-ups were planned. Volunteers from this board will need to help the day of this event. Heins said it would be great to discuss this next month, the new members may have some different ideas. It would be good to brainstorm. ECAB has a small budget for this. In addition, OU has some supplies they can help with.

Item no. 10 being:

APPROVE POSTER CONTEST RULES

This will be voted on at the next meeting.

Item no. 11 being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Harp mentioned that field trips were important and educational in the past. He would like to see that continue. Nairn thought that was a good idea and said in the past field trips included the Water Treatment Plant, Water Reclamation Facility, and the Materials Recovery Facility in Oklahoma City. She also mentioned that May would be a good month to start that back up.

Nairn said since this is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and OU is not doing Earth Month this year, the City is planning on taking over. It cannot be called Earth Month since there is a trademark on this so a new name will need to be decided on. Several things are being planned such as park clean-ups, an Earth Day Festival Parade, showing the Lorax at the park, kids activities, etc. Nairn said a committee is needed to get together to plan the parade. Nairn asked the board to be thinking of ideas. OU will still have some events we could help advertise. Also, at ArtWalk in April, there will be additional "Artful Inlets" painted. Vollmar said it would be fun to have acoustical music on each block. There is an environmental slant to this because the musicians would not be using electricity. The city is thinking of providing reusable bags to the store owners on Main to pass out instead of the normal plastic bags they would use for the evening. The Norman Music Festival is in April so ideas are needed to tie this event into Earth Month. Sartain and Heins know someone on the Norman Music Festival committee. Mattingly said he knows someone also. Nairn said this was not an ECAB responsibility but would like ideas and if anyone is interested in helping with it, it would be great. Rom said we may think about doing something besides a focus on water for the poster contest, probably not this year, but next.

Item No. 12 being:

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Item No. 13 being:

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m

Passed and approved this 15 day of Jan 2020.

Amanda Nairn
Chair, Amanda Nairn