

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES OF  
December 21, 2011**

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 Multipurpose Room, Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street on December 21, 2011 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	Marc Jensen, Chair Darren Alexander Jacy Crosbie James Greer James Harp (arrived at 6:00 p.m.) Amanda Nairn Charles Sever
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MEMBERS ABSENT	Linda Goeringer
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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT	Charlie Thomas, Capital Projects Engineer
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Item No. 2 being:

**INTRODUCE GUESTS**

GUESTS PRESENT	None
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Item No. 3 being:

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2011 MEETING**

Marc Jensen asked if there were any corrections to the November 16, 2011 minutes. Charlie Thomas stated that he was not present and his name was inadvertently left on the minutes from last month. His name needs to be removed. Amanda Nairn made a motion to approve the November 16, 2011 minutes. Darren Alexander seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Marc Jensen, Chair Darren Alexander Jacy Crosbie James Greer Amanda Nairn Charles Sever
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Item No. 4 being:

**INTRODUCE NEW ECAB MEMBERS: JAMES GREER, JAMES HARP AND CHARLES SEVER**

Charles Sever introduced himself first. He is a federal retiree. He has worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI, and the U.S. Department of Interior. James Greer works for the United States Geological Survey. James Harp was not present at this time.

Item No. 5 being:

**DISCUSS PUBLIC EDUCATION ON FERTILIZER USE**

Jacy Crosbie received some brochures from the County Extension office and passed them out at her Homeowners Association (HOA). The HOA was interested in supplying these to the residents. The cost for 400 black and white brochures would be \$20. She contacted the HOA and they were not authorized to write a check for these. Charles Sever made a motion to fund the \$20 to pay for the brochures for the HOA. Jacy Crosbie seconded. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken with the following result:

YEAS	Marc Jensen, Chair Darren Alexander Jacy Crosbie James Greer Amanda Nairn Charles Sever
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NAYS	None
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The motion passed by a vote of 6 to 0.

Charles Sever mentioned that he believes the fertilizer industry has videos on the proper use of fertilizers. He wanted to know if there was a use for a video. He will pursue this to determine what is available. Staff will check to see if fertilizer companies need a city permit to operate. Darren Alexander stated that in the past fertilizer application was not regulated. The state regulates pesticide applicators. There was a lot of discussion on the different groups to educate. Members wanted to know if there is more of a problem with lawn care companies or homeowners treating their own lawns. Charlie Thomas suggested adding a question on the survey at the Earth Day Festival asking individuals if they use a company or if they treat their own yard. Also, they can be asked how often their yards are treated. Charles Sever will contact applicators and get their input. Marc Jensen will contact legal to determine what the options are for governing fertilizer applications. Amanda Nairn said she recently talked to Baxter Vieux and he told her the Master Conservancy District is waiting on a water quality report from the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and then they will develop a plan on what can be discharged into Lake Thunderbird. They may develop new regulations to control runoff. James Harp suggested contacting other "green" cities and see what they have done so we don't have to reinvent the wheel. James Greer said there is a website called Streamstats located on the USGS website that will give flow information on the drainage basins and subdrainage basins. James Harp said this was relevant information because people will want to know how many homes actually drain to Lake Thunderbird. The ECAB member listed below will contact the following cities to determine how they regulate fertilizer:

Jacy Crosby – Lawton and Moore  
James Harp – Amarillo, TX  
James Greer – Broken Arrow and Edmond  
Amanda Nairn – Enid and Fayetteville, AR  
Darren Alexander – Manhattan, Ks and Stillwater

*Gap in tape recording – not all of this discussion was recorded*

Item No. 6 being:

#### **DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION PUBLIC EDUCATION**

James Greer suggested encouraging artificial grass lawns. Marc Jensen asked if the Board was still interested in having a xeriscape lawn contest. Amanda Nairn didn't think it should be a xeriscape contest; it could be a lawn with all native plants. Marc Jensen suggested an individual submit information on their lawns with location and photos but also have written information including how much water they used for a week, etc. Photos of the winner's lawn could be put on the website.

Item No. 7 being:

#### **DISCUSS DROUGHT RESISTANT PLANTING ON CITY FACILITIES**

Charlie Thomas stated that James Briggs is still planning to do this at the south entrance of the Municipal Building.

Item No. 8 being:

#### **DONATIONS FROM CITIZENS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES**

Jacy Crosbie said she had additional information for this because Debbie Smith was told the donation needed to be for something specific. She has talked to Roger Gallagher, Ward 1 Council Member. She passed around an email from him. He said street sweeping was the front line defense when it is done effectively throughout the city. Charlie Thomas said he has also done some more investigation, on request of the Board, with multiple staff members and regrettably has found that the checkbox on the utility bill has never been done by the city and it would involve a comprehensive revamping of the city's billing system. This would be difficult to accomplish but instead, maybe a donation could be handled similar to the donation to the Arts Council. If individuals want to donate to the Arts Council they can come in to the city and sign a contract. They pay this monthly with their utility bill. James Harp mentioned most people don't look at their water bill. A different medium, such as online, may be better. Jacy Crosbie mentioned a utility bill insert may work. James Harp said he doesn't usually write checks so he would suggest if this was done to also do it online. Marc Jensen said he talked to Bob Hangar and he suggested using the term "City of Norman Water Quality" for the donation and using the donation money for storm water quality public education. Darren Alexander stated that water quality is a big issue. He thinks water quantity is what the community needs to start thinking about. He suggested another donation checkbox for finding new resources for water.

Item No. 9 being:

## DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION CONTEST FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

postponed

Item No. 10 being:

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Community Development Block Grant Committee - no report
2. Bicycle Committee - no report
3. Green Team (D. Smith)- no report

Item No. 11 being:

### MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Amanda Nairn told the Board that the City has received more barrels so another rain barrel workshop will be scheduled in the near future. The date has not been set.

Item No. 12 being:

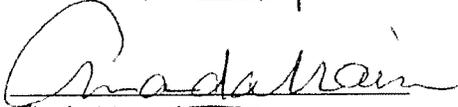
### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

Item No. 13 being:

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.  
Passed and approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012.

  
~~Chair, Marc Jensen~~

Amanda Nairn