

City of Amarillo Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

On the 3rd day of July 2012, the City of Amarillo Environmental Advisory Committee met at 12 Noon in City Hall Room 306, with the following members present:

Amber Spencer Barbara Whitton Rosemartha Cates Ken Pirtle
Michael Rice Julie White

Absent were:

Terence Ng John Sawyers

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. and the following items of business were conducted:

Reading of last meeting minutes, motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Rosemartha Cates seconded by Amber Spencer, motion passed.

Discussion with Clint Stoddard about Xeriscape demonstration projects

Clint discussed the differences between water wise plants and trees and Xeriscape plants and trees. He explained that the City has plans to plant several Xeriscape gardens. Plant material and personnel would be furnished by the City to install these gardens. He suggested the EAC could help in the following areas:

- Design
- Input
- Installation
- Maintenance

Clint suggested the following locations as possible sites for an EAC Xeriscape demonstration garden

- The mini park at 6th & Taylor
- The Fire Department at 34th & Soncy
- Areas at the Rick Cline Sports Complex
- The entrance and by the restrooms of McDonald lake
- Around the Zoo Educational Center (after construction is complete – Grand opening in the Spring 2013 Soft opening in October 2012)

Angie Hannah from the public is a master gardener. She was asked by the EAC to assist with Native Plant selection and Design of the Xeriscape garden the EAC would be involved with.

Clint spoke about the next phase of the City of Amarillo Parks Dept. He explained that the City is going to start creating a "buffer" zone at the Parks. Xeriscape would be on the planted on the outside of the parks and grass on the inside of the parks. This would decrease the amount of water that would spray in the street. He spoke about the type of grasses being used in the parks.

Discussion with City of Amarillo Web Master

Richard DeLaCruz was introduced as the City of Amarillo's Web Master. Discussion was held as follows:

- Placing the EAC handout on the website
- Where on the website to put the handout
- Adding pictures of plants with information in relation to the plants
- Making information available to print from the website
- Adding the Evapotranspiration (ET) Rate of the parks on the website

Barbara asked Angie Hannah to review the plants on the handout before placing it on the website.

Once Richard receives content and text for the handout, he will work on the design and present it to the committee.

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Xeriscape pictures

It was discussed adding a map feature showing pictures and locations of Xeriscape gardens throughout the City. This would provide the public the opportunity to look at a picture and drive by the location to see how it looks.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

Review status of EAC projects

Work on a report to present to City Commission to make recommendation for extension of the Committee

Comments from Public:

Angie Hannah commented on the following topics:

- Rainwater catchments at the Zoo education center
- Solar panels for the Zoo education center
- Putting the Latin names of the plants on the EAC handout.

With no other business to be conducted the meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.