

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

Minutes

On April 10, 2019, the Beautification and Public Arts Advisory Board met at 4:30 pm in City Hall at 601 S. Buchanan Street, Room 306 for a Regular Meeting.

| VOTING MEMBERS | PRESENT | TOTAL ATTENDED | TOTAL MEETINGS |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|----------------|
| Jason Boyett | Y | 14 | 14 |
| Jacob Breeden | Y | 13 | 14 |
| Beth Duke | Y | 13 | 14 |
| Keith Grays | Y | 10 | 14 |
| Sonja Gross | Y | 11 | 14 |
| Angela Knapp Eggers | Y | 12 | 14 |
| Eddy Sauer | Y | 13 | 14 |
| Kelley Sims | N | 10 | 14 |
| Andi Wardlaw | Y | 13 | 14 |

Also in attendance were:

Sherman Bass Amarillo Civic Center Complex General Manager
Courtney White Assistant City Attorney
Michael Kashuba Director of Parks and Recreation
Brad Kiewiet Planner I
Andrew Freeman Director of Planning & Development Services
Cris Valverde Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services
Karen Shipley Amarillo Civic Center Complex Administrative Assistant

Item 1. **Call to Order and Announcements.** Chair Jason Boyett called the meeting to order at 4:39 PM. Sherman Bass updated the Board regarding the Barrio neighborhood plan. They are working on a mural that will be on the underpass at 10th and Grant. They are also creating a Barrio arts project similar to last year’s North Heights project. The first planning meeting for that is tomorrow at noon in this room or next door. The public is invited to attend. Three of us that helped on the North Heights project have been recruited to help.

Item 2. **Minutes.** Beth Duke motioned to approve the minutes and Dr. Eddy Sauer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 3. **Planning Department Presentation and Discussion.** Brad Kiewiet presented about landscape ordinances and the intent of the ordinances. The ordinances promote water conservation and preserving the value of property while enhancing the City. Landscaping is

required on all new nonresidential construction and some redevelopment. Mr. Kiewiet discussed types of landscaping and tree requirements. Ms. Duke asked how the process of requiring landscaping enforced. Mr. Kiewiet said it is part of the site plan on new construction. Dr. Sauer asked if apartments are considered non-residential and Mr. Kiewiet affirmed that apartments are multi-family, so they are not considered residential. Keith Grays asked if downtown landscaping is tied to on-street parking changes. It is not. Mr. Grays continued to discuss on street parking and Courtney White and Mr. Boyett asked him to stay on the agenda topic. Mr. Grays was visibly frustrated and left the meeting. Ms. Wardlaw asked why trees can be planted under power lines. Mr. Kiewiet said they require ornamental trees be planted under power lines because they do not grow as tall as shade trees. They do enforce it with the sight plans of new construction. Irrigation systems are needed to ensure long-term viability of all landscaping. The point system used by planning was discussed. Mr. Kiewiet stated that the purpose of the maintenance standards is to keep all Living Landscape in a healthy and growing condition. If landscaping dies, it shall be replaced by the owner no later than 60 days after notification from the Building Official. Chair Boyett asked what the consequence is if it doesn't happen after the 60 days. Chris Valverde answered saying they would receive a violation letter with possible fines following. Mr. Breeden said he is curious about what the city will do in 10 years or so. Chair Boyett asked how the system is working with the 20 points. Mr. Kiewiet emphasized that it gives options to use sod or draught tolerant xeriscaping. Dr. Sauer asked how long this plan has been in place. Mr. Kiewiet said this landscaping ordinance has been in place about 4-5 years, being a relatively short time. Ms. Gross mentioned that in the future of the Landscaping Ordinance, could the placement of the trees be put somewhere besides under the powerlines, or require shorter trees. Dr. Sauer asked if the items the board is mentioning are sort of Grandfathered in prior to the new re-writes of the ordinances? Mr. Valverde agrees that yes, many of our concerns are and the ordinances being discussed are relatively new. Mr. Bass brought up that all that had been presented so far has been non-residential. Mr. Valverde said there are no requirements for residential areas regarding landscaping other than public safety issues or nuisances like grass being too tall. Mr. Breeden wanted to know if a plan could be started to help the public with say dead tree removal, and would it be over-stepping? Chair Boyett asked if developers were okay with the Landscaping requirements? Mr. Kiewiet said that most were okay with the requirements. Mr. Boyett said the board is trying to figure where we fit in the long-term plan. Ms. Duke said she feels like the main issue of this is the enforcement of the ordinance especially when a property owner goes out of business and the landscaping is not cared for. She also said that Mr. Kiewiet's presentation gave us a lot of information that will help our board plan for the future. Ms. Wardlaw asked how no more than 50% of non-living landscaping came to be. Mr. Valverde replied that they wanted to give the developer the ability to incorporate different landscaping schemes because they didn't want them to cover all of the plot with all crushed rock. Chair Boyett thanked the gentlemen from Planning & Developing for coming and presenting.

Item 4. **Mural Grant Project Update and Discussion.** Mr. Bass updated the Board on the Mural project. He has responded to 17 inquiries but is unable to determine how many have downloaded it from the website. Mr. Breeden and Chair Boyett said the site has been difficult to find. Mr. Bass will follow up on it. Of the 17, 15 identified themselves as artists. Because of

the interest, he wants to do a second press release that stresses the property owner's side. Ms. Duke passed on a concern that she found on social media that said the artists were going to have to pay to do the murals. She would like a clarification with the next press release. Chair Boyett will use the news media to explain the Mural projects. Mr. Bass clarified, it is on the website, on a mobile phone you open a menu or click on City Initiatives. He will ask IT if they will update their page on City Initiatives. Ms. Gross and Mr. Boyett volunteered to tweak the original press release.

Item 5. **Discuss and Consider Mural Grant Project Review Team.** After May 10th the grant applications will have come in and we will need a group of four to make those decisions. Ms. Gross nominated Mr. Boyett, Mr. Breeden, Ms. Knapp Eggers, and Ms. Duke (alternate if only three serve) to review the applications. Ms. Wardlaw seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Item 6. **Discuss and Consider Master Plan.** Chair Boyett opened this discussion up stating the primary discussion needs to be what direction we should take next on the Master Plan having heard from Planning. Ms. Gross was expecting to hear a presentation on the future. Ms. Wardlaw said that we need to look at their presentation and look at what City requirements are and work off their goals. She also thinks we need a 5-year plan. Mr. Breeden said it is good that we received new information, but also if we're going to look at a Master Plan and figure out what other departments have master plans find out what kind of ordinances they have. It seems like we still can add input. Mr. Bass said that last month Mr. Sims referred to the comprehensive plan. Dr. Sauer had reminded the board that it was the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and it should be revised in 2020. Ms. Eggers asked about the directives that were going to be presented two meetings ago. Chair Boyett updated the group on last month's discussion that lead to today's Planning Department presentation. Mr. Breeden asked Mr. Kashuba where landscaping will be impacted in the new Master Plan. He suggested that an overlay district might be the way to address landscaping in different neighborhoods. He thinks a Comprehensive Land Use Plan will be the one that dictates the ongoing information about landscaping. Dr. Sauer said we will enter into a complete revamping for planning and zoning. He wants to know if we need to have something in place because it takes 18 months to re-write. The current version was written in 1968. He thinks the beautification plan will be well used and give the Planning and Zoning Department tools. Mr. Breeden would like our board to provide feedback to the consulting firm, so they understand what we are working toward. Mr. Bass said if the Board wanted him to he would try to schedule the Building Safety Director for the next meeting, so we can hear about enforcement.

Item 7. **Discuss and Consider Beautification Project.** The last thing we talked about was either a tree rebate program or some mechanism to remove dead trees or some combination of both of those things. Mr. Bass has tried to get in touch with Denton to find out more about their program and has not been successful. Dr. Sauer talked to Mr. Miller and he is very open for this type of thing to be presented to Council and there are ways to come up with financing. Mr. Bass said we do not have to have program fully defined in order to request, but we need a description of the program. We need to fine tune how we want to move forward on this project

and what our recommendation will be. Mr. Kashuba said Arlington has a program where they buy smaller trees, but they buy 1,350 trees a year for a cost of about \$2,800.00. This could be a residential plan and have some way to make sure they are watering them. Their plan doesn't include removal. Ms. Wardlaw said that smaller trees require more care and have less chance of making it, so larger trees might be better. Dr. Sauer would like to partner it with the neighborhood projects. Mr. Breeden sees a program where we could have a few businesses to remove some trees pro bono as a public service. Ms. Duke said we could also partner with solid waste to get rid of the trees. Mr. Bass said we have several steps to do the whole thing. We have a tree removal step, a tree replacement step, and a tree planting step. Mr. Kashuba interjected that if we are spending a bunch of money up front to have some checks and balances to give a rebate after one year with a review. Mr. Bass said Denton gets a receipt and gives a rebate. We are trying to help the citizen that is trying to get rid of a dead tree and do the right thing by planting a new tree. What is an average cost of removal of a large oak tree? Chair Boyett ask if we should do like we did with the Mural Project and ask the City Manager if the City would help? What dollar figure is possible? Is it another \$30,000? Mr. Bass and Dr. Sauer said yes. Other ideas discussed included having volunteers assist, focusing on "redevelopment" within the neighborhood plan areas, and getting all tree services to participate.


Item 8. **Public Forum.** Babji Yalamanchili discussed how we can make Amarillo a much cleaner city. His clean-up day will be Saturday, April 27. He will also participate with National Clean-up Day on the third Saturday in September. Ms. White reminded the Board that this item is not on the agenda, so we are not able to discuss. Mr. Kashuba wanted to let us know that there was a mural proposed for the Warford gym before he came to the City, and he announced that it will be put in the Warford lobby instead of the gym on the 17th.

Item 9. **Consider Future Agenda Items.** Mr. Breeden asked for clean-up day to be added. Ms. Gross asked to add the reestablishment of Keep Amarillo Beautiful on the agenda.

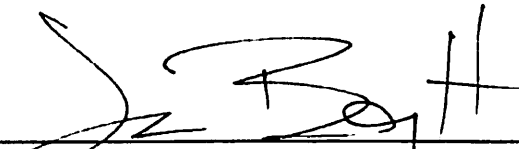
Item 10. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 4:30 pm in room 306.

Item 11. **Adjourn.** Chair Boyett adjourned the meeting at 6:34 PM.

ATTEST:



Sherman Bass, Secretary



Jason Boyett, Chair