

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTIES OF POTTER AND RANDALL  
CITY OF AMARILLO

Minutes

On May 13, 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	15	15
Jacob Breeden	Y	14	15
Rhonda Dittfurth	Y	1	15
Beth Duke	Y	14	15
Sonja Gross	Y	12	15
Angela Knapp Eggers	y	13	15
Eddy Sauer	N	13	15
Kelley Sims	Y	11	15
Andi Wardlaw	Y	14	15

Also in attendance were:

Sherman Bass           Amarillo Civic Center Complex General Manager  
Courtney White       Assistant City Attorney  
Michael Kashuba      Director of Parks and Recreation  
Blair Snow            Director of Public Works  
Karen Shipley         Amarillo Civic Center Complex Administrative Assistant

Item 1.        **Call to Order and Announcements.** Chair Jason Boyett called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM. He introduced the new Board member Rhonda Dittfurth. She works for General Office Supply.

Item 2.        **Minutes.** Angela Knapp Eggers moved to accept the minutes and Andy Wardlaw seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Item 3.        **The Board will discuss and receive reports on the following current matters or projects.** A. Sherman Bass reported on the Mural Grant Project. Mr. Bass stated that there have been two completed applications submitted. We also have two that want to apply late, but the official deadline was the 10<sup>th</sup>. Would it be okay to extend the deadline? If it is, he will work with Mr. Boyett, Ms. Gross and Dave Henry in getting a new press release out. Ms. Duke said she would like the deadline extended. The second question from staff is, in the rules we published we said if we didn't allocate \$6,000 in each quadrant, we could allocate that to another quadrant, and is this Board still okay with that? After discussion, the board by consensus agreed

for staff to extend the deadline until June 14. The subcommittee will recommend how to allocate the funds subject to the program rules.

3B. Mr. Bass said this item was added because Ms. Gross mentioned she would like to Keep Amarillo Beautiful again. Ms. Gross would like wait and see how it could complement Babji's efforts. Mr. Bass said the board has discussed has discussed Keep Amarillo Beautiful and a Friends organization to support fundraising efforts. After checking into this, the City is not able to create either of those. If citizens wish to, and it could be this group of citizens here separate from this meeting, wish to create either of those, then they could do that. Ms. White said that Friends of the Library and others are not a part of the City. If there are further questions, Mr. Bass asked to be contacted. Ms. Duke said that there is a statewide organization called Keep Texas Beautiful. Is there any way our board can help could help Keep Amarillo Clean through their resources? Mr. Bass said as Babji's program grows the City will get involved.

3C. Mr. Bass told the Board that he would try to get our Building Safety official here to explain enforcement but that is not going to happen yet. Ultimately, the only code enforcement that comes after the certificate of occupancy is nuisances. Currently there is no enforcement of the landscape ordinances required prior to CO.

Item 4. **Discuss and consider Master Plan.** Mr. Boyett said the Zoning Rewrite Committee is being put together. They are wanting representatives from different committees to serve. Mr. Boyett spoke to Andrew Freeman today, they are wanting two members possibly the Chair and another volunteer. After discussion, Ms. Wardlaw and Mr. Sims agreed to represent our board. Mr. Bass wanted to clarify that the committee is not rewriting the Master Plan but rewriting the Zoning Ordinances. The Comprehensive Plan is separate from the Zoning Rewrite Committee. The Comprehensive Plan is scheduled to be updated in 2020. If this board wants to write a list of objectives that we want to see, then we can do that. Ms. Gross doesn't want us to continue to spin our wheels from a volunteer standpoint. In order to prepare to give input for Comprehensive Plan and possibly Parks Master plan, Ms. Knapp Eggers suggested that everyone bring what they think is most important to the next meeting. The group concurred.

Item 5. **Discuss and Consider Beautification Projects.** Mr. Bass gave an update on the Denton tree rebate program. They created a 3-year budget from \$100,000 the first year to \$250,000 the third year. For any tree of \$50 or more, a receipt is submitted, and the rebate appears on their utility bill. In the 1<sup>st</sup> year they did 236 trees for \$11,800.00. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year they did 284 trees for \$14,200.00. In year 3 they did 153 trees for \$7,650.00. So, it didn't take off like they hoped it would, but it has been successful, and they are going to continue the rebate program. Mr. Bass also spoke with Kelly Sims because we were tasked to see if we wanted to do the dead tree removal and what kind of an expense we would face. Mr. Sims told Mr. Bass it would be anywhere from \$500 to \$5,000 to remove a dead tree. Size, location and hazards determine the price. Mr. Sims thought that a good estimate of \$800 a tree would be a good figure to begin with for streetscape type of trees. Mr. Sims believes he and other service providers would be willing to it at cost plus. Mr. Bass worked with the figures and estimates \$1,500 per removal and replacement with a nice tree. With a \$30,000 budget, that would cover 20 projects. Discussion continued around specific areas including I-40 access roads, interchange, North Heights, Barrio, San Jacinto (specifically 6<sup>th</sup> street), highly visible areas.

Several talked about how the trees on Airport Blvd. are maintained and how nice they look. Mr. Bass said that due to difficulty in communicating the program to the public the board needs to look at an endeavor that is not too complicated. Mr. Breeden would like to locate a park in an area where people can't up-grade for themselves. Ms. Duke recommended the program be for owner occupied residences. Mr. Boyett reminds everyone that this is a pilot project to see what happens. He also thinks that major corridors like 1-27 & 1-40 need to be considered for tourist visibility. Mr. Bass asked if anyone would be willing to drive any of the major arteries in North or East Amarillo or the Barrio to look for opportunities to plant trees / removal of trees in a six-block area. Mr. Boyett suggested we will have to be satisfied with a smaller impact. He suggested that we bring a map to the next meeting to map out places to drive. Mr. Breeden believes the tree planting and tree removal/replacement project are two separate programs. Ms. Gross agrees and said that we want to make Amarillo attractive visually because it is our community. Mr. Bass said if he is hearing the group correctly, that we want to make the tree rebate and tree removal/replacement two separate programs. He reminded the group we do not need a defined program where we hand Council the material. We need to understand what the scope of our request is for, and based on today's discussion we need to ask for more than we originally thought. This needs to be completed by July.

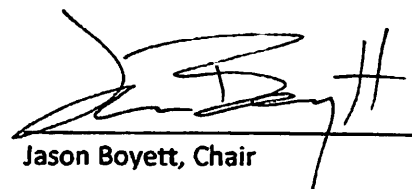
Item 6. **Public Forum.** Babji Yalamanchili was asked to update the clean Amarillo event. He said trash just keeps coming. It is worse today than it was yesterday. He thinks areas need to be defined and publicized. He thinks the San Jacinto area can be divided up into blocks to clean. School children need to be taught to participate. There are three times in a year to get groups to help with the cleaning, June 15, September 21, and May 2. He has contacted several groups and church groups to help. Mr. Bass asked him if he is coordinating with Solid Waste. He said not yet but he has contacted them. Ms. Gross volunteered to help him with his web site. Mr. Breeden offered to talk to a school.

Item 7. **Consider Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date and Time.** The next meeting will be Monday, June 10, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Item 8. **Adjourn.** Chair Boyett adjourned the meeting at 6:02 PM.

ATTEST:

  
Sherman Bass, Secretary

  
Jason Boyett, Chair