

City of Amarillo  
Environmental Task Force

On August 15, 2019, the Environmental Task Force met at 6:00 P.M. in Conference Room 306 at Amarillo City Hall, 601 S. Buchanan Ave., with the following members present:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Charlie Graham	N	23	12
Michael Graham	N	5	3
John Kiehl	Y	23	17
Howard Smith	Y	12	11
Ryan Zimmer	Y	4	3
Roger Gloe	Y	4	3
<b>EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/STAFF</b>			
Blair Snow	Y		
Donnie Hooper	N		

The following guests were also present:

Julie Herman, Coordinator of Public Works  
Adam Schaer, KB Recycling  
Courtney White - City Attorney I

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 P.M., and the following items of business were conducted:

**2. CONSIDER AND APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 18, 2019**

Motion to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes as written was made by Roger Gloe, seconded by Ryan Zimmer and passed with a 4-0 vote.

**3. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CITIZEN SURVEY**

- John Kiehl has not drafted a survey yet, but suggested the development of a coordinator position on staff with the City to implement initiatives (to be placed on the next Council agenda) and Blair Snow serving as the liaison to get the initiatives on the City website.
- Roger Gloe asked what the Environmental Task Force will do with the results of the survey, and the answer was to see what is in demand.
- John Kiehl will draft a survey before the next meeting and Julie Herman will distribute it to task force members via e-mail.

**4. RECEIVE REPORT ON CARDBOARD RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM**

- Adam Schaer with KB Recycling reviewed the numbers through June (3 months into the recycling pilot program): The program has been good overall. Adam was surprised St. Hyacinth isn't doing better and suggested raising awareness. The Civic Center had large growth, possibly due to the Sod Poodles games. Sams is also up and Bentley's is steady. The weights are estimated.
- Change in color of containers from green to brown might be confusing people.
- The cardboard market is the lowest ever (due to China or saturation), plastics are not doing well, paper re-opened in July, and there are four scrap yards buying metal in Amarillo.
- Single stream recycling is failing countrywide. There is a need for another model.
- At the request of John Kiehl, Adam Schaer described a community recycling program for Amarillo: Central piece of land; roll-offs (not carts); staff, including evenings and weekends; equipment (skid steers and forklifts); processing onsite or offsite and sold to industry.
- Need to address things that afflict the City's Solid Waste program (e.g., buy back tires).
- Composting is permitted at the landfill, but it is lacking organic material and liquids.

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- Howard Smith asked about recycling at the brush sites. There could be cardboard dumpsters or a roll-off for metals (Adam Schaer recommended contracting at market indicated prices bid out quarterly or every 6 months – including hauling).
- It would benefit the City to develop a long-range plan. The Recycling Pilot Program ends in October.

**5. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER CONTENT FOR RECYCLING WEBSITE**

- There is currently a limited list of recycling companies on the City's website.
- Adam Schaer will provide a list of recycling companies to Blair Snow and the website will be updated.
- John Kiehl will send Blair Snow information to add to the City's website.
- ISRI website has waste descriptors that can be added to the City's website.
- Discussed the possibility of adding a banner at the bottom of the City's website and sending press releases to raise awareness.

**6. RECEIVE REPORT ON AVAILABILITY OF PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Blair Snow will invite someone from the Public Communications and Community Engagement Department to discuss promoting recycling through press releases and social media.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Adam Schaer mentioned that September 21 is National Cleanup Day and November 15 is America Recycles Day.
- Consider publicizing to raise awareness.

**8. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. Discuss and Consider Citizen Survey and Alternative Ideas
2. Brainstorm Recycling Program Ideas
3. Discuss Public Service Announcements with Public Communications Department
4. Discuss Requirement for Open Meeting Act Training for Task Force Members

**9. ANNOUNCEMENT - NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next Task Force meeting will be on September 19, 2019 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Room 306.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business to be conducted, the meeting adjourned at 7:02 P.M.