

City of Amarillo
Environmental Task Force

On September 24, 2020, the Environmental Task Force met remotely via Zoom at 12:00 P.M., with the following members present:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tim Dillon	Y	4	4
Roger Gloe	Y	9	8
Michael Graham	N	9	5
David Moody	Y	4	4
Adam Schaer	N	4	2
Howard Smith	Y	17	14
Ryan Zimmer	Y	9	8
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/STAFF			
Blair Snow	Y		

The following guests were also present:

- Julie Allegretti, Utilities Program Manager
- Julie Herman, Public Works Program Coordinator
- Damen Ratliff, Assistant Director of Utilities
- Will Smith, Superintendent of Solid Waste
- Courtney White - City Attorney I
- Craig Workman, Assistant Superintendent of Solid Waste (Disposal)

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 P.M. by Ryan Zimmer, Chairman. The following items of business were conducted:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. CONSIDER AND APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD AUGUST 27, 2020

Motion to approve the August 27, 2020 minutes as written was made by Roger Gloe, seconded by Tim Dillon and passed with a 5-0 vote.

3. DISCUSS COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING

Will Smith reported that the Greenways HOA has agreed to having a 20-yard roll-off (provided by Ryan Zimmer) placed on their property. Ryan Zimmer will have the dumpster picked up and taken to the landfill when requested by the HOA. Will Smith also reported that a 20-yard watertight dumpster was placed at the High Plains Food Bank and 4.08 tons of food waste was delivered to the landfill. On September 23, 2020, Ryan Zimmer delivered 8.59 tons of tea leaves from High Plains Dairy to the landfill. The composting project is going well, and Ryan Zimmer will continue to coordinate with Will Smith on the Greenways. Will Smith will provide an update at the November 2020 task force meeting. Roger Gloe reported that his neighborhood has 42 homeowners, and he will discuss the possibility of a composting pilot program including food waste with the homeowners. The task force believed this would be a good educational opportunity on a smaller scale. David Moody asked about collecting composting materials from United Supermarkets and Walmart (community partnership). Will Smith stated that a shortage of dumpsters is an issue and water-tight dumpsters cost \$7,000 to \$8,000 each. This may be possible with additional funding in the future. Blair Snow noted that there is a charge for collection and disposal of composting materials in the current ordinance.

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4. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Julie Allegretti discussed having daily water use publicized in the news. It was suggested for that this occur only during high usage times of the year. One of the news stations suggested a drawing contest to raise awareness and educate children on water conservation. The task force would like to raise awareness of water use fluctuation.

ACTION: Julie Allegretti (Jonathan Gresham) provide water usage information to develop graphs of high and low usage times to City Council.

5. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Julie Allegretti met with David Moody to develop a better definition of “waste” and develop an enforcement plan. “Excessive” runoff was discussed. This can be measured in quantity or distance of runoff. The problem with distance is that it fluctuates based on the location and terrain. Discretion must be used in enforcing excessiveness, and photographs and documentation would be beneficial. It was determined that the water district would be called to a location to determine excessive runoff and the prosecutors in the Legal Department would enforce the ordinance requirements. Utility Department personnel will continue to research comparable cities for best practices. Fines and fee structures defined in the ordinance are favored over a prosecution system. Meter data and GIS information may be used to provide water usage information. The intention is to raise awareness reduce water waste.

ACTION: Julie Allegretti (Jonathan Gresham) work with Courtney White and Ryan Zimmer to draft wording regarding excessive water use for the ordinance.

6. DISCUSS WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

The task force discussed the possibility of annual irrigation system inspections conducted by Building Safety to educate and incentive compliance with the ordinance. The task force determined that irrigation system inspections during property transfers is more realistic. The focus is on overspray and encouraging watering schedules (providing education and raising awareness). The ordinance must be updated to reflect incentives.

ACTION: Blair Snow invite Building Safety personnel to the next task force meeting to discuss water conservation incentives.

7. DISCUSS SUNSET OF ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

Blair Snow stated that the Environmental Task Force will sunset this December and requested recommendations for City Council. Howard Smith stated that the task force needs to continue and Ryan Zimmer concurred. A two-year extension was recommended. All current task force members are interested in continuing to serve. The focus of the task force is diverting waste from the landfill and water conservation.

8. SET DATE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Task Force will be held remotely via Zoom on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 12:00 PM. Agenda items will include water conservation education, requirements and incentives with Jonathan Gresham (Utilities Department).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.