

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTIES OF POTTER §
AND RANDALL §
CITY OF AMARILLO §

On June 11, 2014, the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Advisory Committee met in a scheduled session at 12:00 P.M. in Councilmember’s Conference Room in 303, on the third floor of City Hall, 509 East 7th Avenue, Amarillo, Texas, with the following members present:

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Bill Chudej	No	25	17
Bob Juba, Chair	Yes	25	18
Wes Knapp	Yes	25	19
Eddie Scott	No	25	18
Howard Smith, Vice Chair	Yes	25	24
Dana Walton	Yes	25	17
Milford Burrell	No	22	19
Steve Rogers	Yes	9	7
Mark Meister	Yes	4	4

CITY STAFF:

Kelley Shaw, Planning Director
Kathleen Collins, Planner II

Mr. Juba opened the meeting, established a quorum, and conducted the consideration of the following items beginning with ITEM 1.

ITEM 1: Approve the minutes of the Committee’s May 7, 2014 meeting

Mr. Juba asked if there were any questions on the previous meeting’s minutes. Hearing none, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried unanimously.

ITEM 2: Presentation and discussion on proposed amendments to the City of Amarillo’s Landscape Ordinance

Mr. Juba invited Mr. Shaw to speak on this item. Mr. Shaw stated that with increased attention given to water conservation, City staff believed it necessary to review and possibly amend the current Landscape Ordinance. He reviewed a power point presentation that included existing landscape standards and proposals for non-residential developments within the City of Amarillo.

Alternative ways to calculate landscape requirements, decrease water runoff and encourage water conservation are the main focuses of the proposed Landscape Ordinance amendments. Staff believes the proposed ordinance offers more flexibility for the business owners whereas half of the required landscaping could be non-living. Mr. Shaw presented several scenarios where current and proposed requirements were applied to various land uses. He mentioned that business owners are currently exceeding the minimum landscaping requirements and in many instances, the proposed requirements would also be surpassed. In general, unless a multi-

frontage property is developed, the proposed ordinance would require less total (living and non-living) landscaping. City staff created a recommended plant list containing over 120 water efficient or drought tolerant perennials, shrubs, grasses, and trees. Mr. Shaw noted that staff recommends implementing a point system in the proposed ordinance as a way to encourage business owners to install water efficient, drought tolerant landscape materials. Mr. Shaw noted that several individuals believe staff is "gutting" the ordinance. Mr. Juba disagreed pointing out several examples within the presentation. Mr. Juba also commented that the Comprehensive Plan encourages landscaping and associates a beautiful city to a healthy economy. There is a definite impact that landscaping makes on the public environment.

Mr. Shaw mentioned City staff held several City Council workshops where the proposed revisions were discussed. Planning Staff also contacted the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce to obtain local businesses addresses. Over 1,000 invitations were mailed requesting business owners participation in a public meeting to discuss the proposed amendments. Mostly positive feedback was provided. A representative from the Amarillo Association of Realtors read a prepared statement noting their concerns with the proposed amendments. The letter stated that they understood and agreed with the water conservation aspect, however, were concerned with complicating an already overly burdensome regulation. Mr. Shaw mentioned City Staff will be meeting with Realtors on June 17th to listen to their concerns and discuss alternatives.

ITEM 4: Public Forum: Comments from interested citizens on matters directly pertaining to City policies, programs or services

Mr. Juba asked for public comments. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Kelley Shaw
Planning Director