

**THE FLOWER MOUND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2011, IN THE
FLOWER MOUND TOWN HALL, LOCATED AT 2121 CROSS TIMBERS ROAD IN
THE TOWN OF FLOWER MOUND, COUNTY OF DENTON, TEXAS, AT 6:30 P.M.**

The Environmental Conservation Commission met in regular session, with the following members present:

Craig Bromley	Member
Marilyn Lawson	Member
Ellen Stallcup	Member
Russ McNamer	Chair
Alton Bowman	Member
Joe Haver	Vice Chair
Jennifer Romaszewski	Alternate Member
Christopher Baca	Alternate Member

with members absent:

James Dickey	Alternate Member
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constituting a quorum with the following members of Town staff participating:

Matthew Woods	Director of Environmental Services
Jared Martin	Environmental Review Analyst
Kendra Stephenson	Town Council Liaison

A. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McNamer called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

B. CITIZENS/VISITORS COMMENTS

None.

C. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair McNamer led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

D. COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

Chair McNamer stated that he attended the Clean Air Through Energy Efficiency (CATEE) conference on November 8 and 9. The conference covered a lot of information dealing with sustainability under the topics of clean air, clean water, and energy efficiency. Matt Woods attended one day and Jared Martin attended another day of the conference. The first day's topic discussed was that clean air is a public health issue and an economic issue. Notable speakers included the regional director of the EPA, a number of State representatives including the

chairman of the energy committee and the water conservation committee. Sustainability means “thinking out of the box”, it means different things to different people, it requires working together, it’s about rights and responsibilities, it’s about making choices and the accountability and consequences of those choices, it’s about balancing creating more energy at what cost versus the cost of using less energy. Air pollution causes water pollution which causes contamination of soil through irrigation and on into the food chain. When looking at a sustainability program, it needs to be by the community, for the community and the community must identify what sustainability means to them. The final point was that there is no single solution when looking at environmental pollution whether it’s clean air or water.

The second day there was more focus on water and how closely it is tied to clean air and energy issues. Energy efficiency is the cheapest resource. Climate change, whether cyclical or incremental, means that the cost of energy and water will increase. One of the speakers used the analogy that water is the oil of the 21st century. Based on the panel discussion of the state representatives, we need better coordination between planning and funding for both energy and water; focus on getting stakeholders involved; suggestions were given about getting the message out – giving it a name, engaging broadly, reviewing the problem, building partnerships, developing a community-based event at a low cost, and connect the process to results. There were break-out sessions on other topics such as low impact developments and transit-oriented developments.

Chair McNamer stated that all these things point out that there are going to be multiple ways of solving the problems and that there is no single solution. Listening to predictions for weather and climate change was a little discouraging if not frightening. As a result of going to this conference, he felt compelled to make his home more energy efficient in a number of different ways.

Chair McNamer thanked the staff for putting together the Arbor Day kick-off for the new tree farm.

E. STAFF REPORT

- **Update and status report related to environmental issues and events, regulatory activities, and projects.**

Matthew Woods informed the Commission that he also found attending the CATEE conference beneficial. He attended the program on sustainable practices with a presentation from the facilities director from Parkland Hospital involving their extensive remodel where the new hospital will be tied in to the DART rail line. They are trying to incorporate numerous sustainable practices involving green building concepts. It was also beneficial to hear from the city of Chicago from a large city perspective and the city of McKinney. They discussed some of their pitfalls and successes.

Mr. Woods informed the Commission that the Stormwater Ordinance went to Town Council on November 7 and was tabled until the December 19 meeting. The development community raised some questions about the erosion and sediment control practices, which is only generally related to the Stormwater Ordinance. The Storm Water Ordinance is basically a discharge ordinance. Feedback will be brought back to the December 19 Town Council meeting for discussion and adoption.

Mr. Woods thanked the Commission Members who attended the Arbor Day Event at the new tree farm.

Jared Martin informed the Commission that the day he attended the CATEE conference, it dealt more with the relationship between energy and water and how the two were connected and how they are not addressed that way. He feels that as we go forward, the two will be looked at as a package instead of separate issues. An interesting fact brought up was the State of Texas has funding available for energy issues but no plan and they have a water plan with no funding. They are trying to figure out how to close that gap to plan and fund for both and they appear to be eager to figure out how to work together toward their common goals.

Mr. Martin told the Commission that the Arbor Day Event held last Friday at the new tree farm area had twelve local children that included boy scouts, siblings and other students who assisted with planting the first 36 trees in the first row of the eight row tree farm. The trees planted were water oaks and Shumard oaks. Eventually, there will be other native trees such as pecan trees, bur oaks, and other types of trees that developers do not normally plant. He has been working with some of the landscape architects to "broaden their horizons" and if they have an appropriate space for the other species he tries to get them to use them whenever possible so that they are not using the typical live oak, Chinese pistache, and Shumard oak on every site.

Mr. Martin stated that there are several more school events coming up and we usually have trees left over which will be planted at the tree farm to fill up the first phase. During the summer, we will be working on a plan to get some of the less used species planted at the tree farm during the second phase.

Mr. Martin invited the Commission Members to participate in the next school event this Friday at Vickery Elementary School at 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will be similar to the last one with five booths and a local group talking about beekeeping. Just e-mail Jared if you are interested.

Mr. Woods informed the Commission that if four or more members wish to participate, we can post a possible quorum by tomorrow.

In response to a question, Mr. Martin informed the Commission that we are using the treated water from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to water the trees at the tree farm earlier than planned and should work out well. Also, as the landscaping goes in on Long Prairie Road, we are recycling those 30-gallon pots to use at the tree farm which results in a considerable savings. We are also using recycled mulch.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair McNamer read the item on the Consent Agenda.

Commission Member Stallcup made a motion to approve consent Item 1. Commission Member Haver seconded the motion. The item, as approved by consent, was re-stated below along with the approved recommendation for the record.

- 1. Consider approval of the minutes from the regular meeting of the Environmental Conservation Commission held on November 1, 2011.**

RECOMMENDATION: Move to accept the minutes as written with the approved correction.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

AYES: Commission Members Bromley, Lawson, Stallcup, Haver, and Bowman
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The motion passed with a vote of 5-0-0.

G. ADJOURNMENT – REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

H. CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER

Chair McNamer called the work session to order at 6:52 p.m.

I. WORK SESSION ITEM

2. Receive updates from the sustainability subcommittees and discuss the Town's proposed sustainability program.

(Note: The power point presentation can be obtained from the Environmental Services office.)

Mr. Woods informed the Commission Members that both subcommittees had meetings. He met with Subcommittee B and they focused on the supplemental items that do not have much in place at this time so they looked at future initiatives such as energy conservation and efficiency, climate protection and issues, and the green building code. The intent of this agenda item was so that both subcommittee members can speak openly and discuss where they are going, what they talked about, future

meetings for the subcommittees, and the goal of preparing the plan or framework for Town Council review.

Subcommittee A focused on land use, forestry, water conservation, storm water, recycling and education. The subcommittee members can choose how they want to report their discussions.

Vice Chair Haver began with the findings from Subcommittee B. The other members of the subcommittee, Ms. Romaszewski and Mr. Baca were asked to join in with their information. They decided to go over the items and find out which ones were more purposeful for Flower Mound. One of the discussions was on where we are at on climate. One of the recommendations is getting the greenhouse emission inventory so a decision can be based on where we currently stand regarding greenhouse emissions.

The Town is currently in a non-attainment zone being in the flight path of the DFW airport. The first step before developing our own policies is to have some type of air quality measure that can be incorporated in the sustainability plan and then we can either develop a specific policy or an alternate by looking at existing initiatives such as North Texas Clean Air Coalition.

An interesting note from the discussions on the CATEE conference is the similar connections between categories such as how energy conservation, energy efficiency, and even urban forestry contribute to air quality.

Other possibilities discussed were to define policies for existing Town buildings that would reduce energy consumption through dimmers or higher efficiency lighting or different strategies on "daylighting."

An overview of the green building code was done to get everyone comfortable about what that is. An interesting article found online said that the Boston Society of Architects commissioned a group (Center for Code Reform) to look at the new International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and do five things: 1. identify the jurisdictions who have already adopted any form of the IGCC, 2. report on the proposed enforcement structures, 3. review documentation on economic impact, 4. identify jurisdictions currently evaluating adoption, 5. summarize any training required. The report seems to have addressed many of the issues brought up relative to the new green construction code and includes who is using it and what are the impacts such as costs perceived by developers and/or construction industry related businesses.

Vice Chair Haver stated we can't afford to sit back and do nothing. There should be some measure of energy conservation and measure of climate

control or policies, procedures or initiatives and we need look at adoption of the IGCC in some form.

Chair McNamer stated that his understanding is that parts of the IGCC are already being incorporated into other building code standards by cities and municipalities. Mr. Haver said that is true. The IGCC will not be formally released until June 2012; however, several drafts have been out for a while and some cities and municipalities have adopted parts of the language in that code. In the architectural industry it is believed that a high percentage of municipalities will adopt the IGCC. The real benefit of adopting these green building codes is that they are enforceable where the voluntary programs are not.

In response to a question, Vice Chair Haver said that Subcommittee B plans to meet again and should be ready to present something at the January meeting to take to the Town Council's retreat.

Commission Member Bowman stated he met with Commission Members Lawson and Bromley, assisted by Jared Martin, for Subcommittee A. They met last week and discussed the areas they were most interested in. Member Bowman presented urban forestry and the tree ordinance in regards to sustainability of the tree canopy. It has been a while since the last tree canopy analysis and would be good to see if funds are available for another one in order to see if the canopy is continuing or being reduced in relation to building in SPA areas. A possible change to the ordinance may be needed if the canopy has been reduced. Trees need to be replaced caliper inch for caliper inch to sustain the canopy and that is not being done with the current tree ordinance. He is also interested in the growing post oaks from acorns program that could be part of the tree farm program. It would have to be done by staff because the acorns are not commercially available.

Commission Member Bowman also spoke about water conservation in relation to native plants. He thinks that the development of an ordinance outlining incentives or rewards for those who want to do native planting would increase water conservation. Seventy percent of Town's water use goes for landscaping. Education programs would help show the residents the benefits of native planting.

Commission Member Bromley reported that a need for water conservation is due to the lack of rainfall and not enough rationing of the water supplies. Currently, the Town is obligated to purchase a certain amount of water so conservation hasn't been a concern due to the fact that the Town needs the money to pay for the water. Hopefully, in the future the water contract will be renegotiated.

Discussions included ways to get people to conserve water such as a tiered billing structure, education, landscaping with drought tolerant plants, and grey water usage are a few. The Town could look at the use of grey water for watering local parks and landscaping.

Commission Member Bromley stated that environmental management programs could be used similar to the one Fleet Services tried to get by using the same framework to go forward with another program. The Town's use of hybrid fleet vehicles could be expanded and the purchase of office equipment that conserves energy.

He would like to see participation in the Stream Team increase and more education for the public about watersheds to make them aware that anything that goes into the storm drains flows into our creeks and streams to the lakes.

Commission Member Bromley said we also needed to develop a plan to recognize businesses that have good environmental programs.

Commission Member Lawson quoted from the Texas Water Department Board about water conservation, "In serious drought conditions, Texas does not and will not have enough water to meet the needs of it's people, it's businesses and it's agricultural enterprises". Obviously, we need to conserve water. When talking about the canopy in urban forestry, our goal is thirty five percent and we are currently at twenty seven percent. We are looking at where are we now and where do we want to be which will require baselines. We need to know how much is being recycled now so we know where we want to go to. Denton did a waste audit study on their parks and they found that fifty percent of the waste was plastic bottles, five percent was aluminum cans, two percent glass bottles, two percent cardboard, one percent steel and forty percent miscellaneous (landfill items).

Commission Member Lawson stated that education falls into all categories. The subcommittee also talked about the schools and we do not know how much they are recycling. The most important goal is to find something we would like to do that will have a substantial impact right away then grow from there so that people are more apt to buy into something that isn't going to cost a lot of money and is relatively easy to do then move on to the more difficult issues.

Subcommittee A will have a meeting before the January ECC meeting with information to take to the Town Council retreat.

The Commission members discussed the need for resident input and how to go about getting that input. Suggestions were public meetings outside Town Hall at locations such as schools, churches, community centers or

possibly an online survey. Questions for the survey could be developed and approved by the Commission then possibly having a focus group go over them for input before taking them to Town Council for a survey approval. A survey could give a good outline of the public perceptions of sustainability before having public meetings where we may not have the answers to questions asked. It was suggested that ideas be brought to the meeting in January for further discussion and if this should be part of the 2012 goals.

Chair McNamer said at the CATEE conference suggestions were given on how to engage school children using a values pyramid to give them choices and get insight on what children think is important. He passed around a handout of a values pyramid with questions that children could understand and respond to. This is also something to think about for public input.

3. Discussion of the Environmental Conservation Commission's goals and objectives for 2012.

Mr. Woods presented some slides that highlighted some of the 2010, 2011, and proposed 2012 goals. The 2012 goals listed in the agenda item are provided to open up the discussion.

The 2010 goals and objectives included land trust discussions and it was decided at that time that the Town would not pursue establishing its own land trust as Connemara Conservancy was functioning well and continues to function well as far as being a land trust in the Town. Land trust and land conservation were hot topics in 2010 for the ECC along with identifying land for conservation.

Information was provided on an "acorns to oak" program; the green building ordinance; some items for energy conservation, recycling, household hazardous waste, and composting; information was given on drought tolerant landscaping and a web page for that was created; a Town-wide renewable energy program was discussed; and sustainability was first discussed.

In 2011, the focus was to choose two or three goals that were attainable. The main goal was to evaluate the ECC's ordinance and the powers and duties outlined in that ordinance, which was accomplished. Other goals were to develop a sustainability plan, which is an ongoing project, and being involved with the community gardens subcommittee, which Commission members are participating in.

Other possible goals discussed since 2010 are sustainability, environmental education program, assisting with developing the outdoor learning area which needs a plan on how to promote, enhance, and make

it actively used along with the bridge over the creek which is a key component of that for access purposes. Active promotion of the drought tolerant landscaping practices is still a topic in discussion, and assisting with the Town's tree planting initiative called Tree North Texas Initiative that the City of Richardson's Mayor kicked off for planting a number of trees in a 3 to 5 year time frame. The Town is interested in this initiative and ECC could assist with that.

Chair McNamer said they are all worthy goals and a focus on 3 of these for 2012 would be a good way to go along with continuing to develop a sustainability program.

Vice Chair Haver said he would like the sustainability program development to continue. He also feels the ECC shouldn't lose sight of it's main capacity in reviewing development plans and still advocate and promote ongoing tree and environmental programs. He liked the first two suggestions that Mr. Woods presented. The first one is the ongoing sustainability plan development and the second is enhancing the environmental education program. He suggested further definition of these at the next meeting along with a sustainability time line, surveys, work sessions, broad topic issues, what sustainability means to children, a calendar of educational events. He would like to see a definition of each goal because they are currently too broad and need more detail.

Commission Member Lawson said many of these items all work together as part of sustainability goals and we should work with our ongoing programs such as the education programs for second graders and drought information given at the green fairs about drought tolerant plants and rain barrels.

It was suggested that in the overall goals for 2012 an emphasis should be on considering an increase in community involvement which is essential for anything we try to put into place because it is tough to implement or sustain programs like these without community involvement.

A decision on the ECC's goals for 2012 needs to be made at the January meeting in order to get the information ready for the Town Council's retreat.

Commission Member Bowman asked about the last time there was a tree canopy survey done.

Mr. Woods informed him that the last report on that was an urban ecosystem analysis by Urban Forest in August 2006.

Commission Member Bowman stated he felt this should be done again every 5 to 10 years if funds are available in order to have a baseline to work with to see if the tree canopy is declining.

J. ADJOURNMENT – WORK SESSION

The work session was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.