

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES FROM GENERAL MEETING  
11-13-08**

1. Welcome,
  - a. 7:00meeting began. Elaine Smith introduced Commissioner Ron Marchant as the Commissioners Court liaison.
  - b. Members present: Elaine Smith, Ron Marchant, Richard McMullen, Mike Sweet, Jody Gonzales, Danny Brumley.
  - c. Guests: Janet Laminek from Denton County AgriLife Extension, and Master Gardener Linda Williams.
2. Purpose, presented by Commissioner Marchant
  - a. The committee needs to be active; an advising board to the Commissioners Court and the community.
  - b. Purpose is to save and educate the County and it's citizens.
  - c. The Commissioners Court approved new by-laws to give the committee a "broad stroke" of new direction.
3. Landscaping for the Charlie Cole Building; a Denton County Juvenile Facility. Danny Brumley led the discussion. (photos of the facility were provided by Danny.)
  - a. The committee has been asked to help determine appropriate and low maintenance, "xeriscape" (pronounced "zeer-uh-scape" and is briefly defined as water efficient landscaping) options for this building.
  - b. Many municipalities are moving in this direction.
  - c. The committee is being asked to help Denton County change the landscaping on its facilities one project at a time.
  - d. Ron mentioned that the new Administrative Complex will be using water cisterns from rainwater runoff to collect & use for irrigation as well as other xeriscape options.
  - e. Ron also mentioned that Danny's department has been implementing other environmentally friendly policies including light bulbs, air filters, and temperature control.
  - f. The Charlie Cole building currently has a rodent problem, fleas, and no landscaping upkeep other than the occasional trimming of trees & shrubs.
  - g. Mike Sweet spoke up with comments regarding security issues regarding landscaping; keeping it trimmed and removing "hiding spots." CPED (Crime Prevention Environmental Design) recommends a 2 foot clearance from the building.
  - h. Discussion was made regarding who would do the work – trustees or juvenile probationers – the issue would have to be researched.
  - i. Boy Scouts were another recommendation for laborers.
  - j. Mike Sweet said that "Keep Denton Beautiful" may have grants or materials that could be used. (Amy Dennis & Nicole Vance are contacts for this organization.)
  - k. Ron said that he would approach the Commissioners Court for funds if they were necessary, but that using other avenues should be exhausted first.
  - l. Currently the trees at the Cole building appear to be Live Oaks and Crepe Myrtles.
  - m. Linda Williams stated that the bushes are "maintenance hogs."

- n. Janet Laminek said that mulch around the trees would be better for the trees than grass alone, and would look better if the grass would not grow in the shade of the trees.
  - o. The front entrance landscaping is all dead; Ron would like to focus on the entrance.
  - p. Danny asked about adding seasonal or perennial color.
  - q. The sprinkler system (irrigation) works well and is maintained.
  - r. Jody Gonzales reminded the committee that the public will continue to walk through the landscaping areas even if it's landscaped; hardy plants are needed.
  - s. Comments were made that when the facility looks good and is maintained that the employees and citizens will begin to take pride in the facility, and may help keep it nice. "Curb appeal will give pride for what's inside."
  - t. Linda suggested the use of "Dyno Dirt." This "super dirt," made from waste products, may be available from the city, or through "Keep Texas Beautiful."
  - u. Committee members and guests asked if they would be able to walk the property. Danny said that he would be able to meet with anyone if given some advance notice.
  - v. The Committee agreed to walk the property individually, and then may meet as a group.
  - w. All recommendations should be forwarded to Danny [danny.brumley@dentoncounty.com](mailto:danny.brumley@dentoncounty.com)
  - x. Danny will compile the information and confirm whether or not trustees will be able to be used for labor.
  - y. Mike suggested that grants through "Keep Texas Beautiful" may be available in Denton as well as other municipalities.
  - z. Boy Scouts were mentioned again as laborers for community service hours.
  - aa. Elaine recommended that a development plan be compiled using this project for future projects and recommendations to the County.
  - bb. Danny said that using this building as a prototype would allow him to request budget money for other facilities.
  - cc. Time Frame –
    - i. Danny Brumley suggested that recommendations be given to him by the end of the year.
    - ii. He would compile them for a January General Meeting.
    - iii. Work could begin in February or early spring, after recommendations are presented to the Court.
4. Changes to the Committee By-Laws
- a. 2.01 Responsibilities – Ron read the 5 responsibilities out loud.
  - b. 5.04 Meetings – on an as needed basis
    - i. Elaine recommended that we schedule them on a quarterly basis so that members could plan ahead.
    - ii. Elaine said that members wanted to move the meetings back to Tuesday, but Mike Sweet & others had responded that they could not meet on Tuesdays, so informally the committee agreed to switch to Tuesdays or Thursdays. No formal action was taken.
  - c. Elaine asked that the website be updated to reflect Commissioner Marchant as the Court liaison.
5. Adjourned at 8:40pm