



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
16, December, 2009**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 16, December, 2009, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Babberney called the Board Meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Keith Babberney – Chair, Peggy Maceo, Jessica Wilson, Nevic Donnelly, Nick Classen

Staff in Attendance: PARD: Troy Houtman, Operations Division Manager; Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Joe Washington, Neighborhood Liaison; Anthony Cardenas, Administrative Assistant, Austin Energy; Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of 11/18/2009 approved on Board Member Wilson's motion, Board Member Maceo seconded and motion passed with a 3-0-2 vote.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. No citizen communication

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Manager, PARD regarding Forestry's numbers for November and open positions. Floor was turned over to Joe Washington for questions.
 - 1) Board Member Donnelly made motion to move up item **8a** due to its pertinence to this matter
 - 2) Joe Washington will give a presentation after meeting with Board Member Classen
 - 3) Board Member Classen moved to have board members take draft home and make comments. Board Member Donnelly seconded. Motion denied 0-5-0.
 - 4) Board Member Maceo moved to create a working group to refine letter before sending it to City Council. Board Member Wilson seconded. Motion passed 4-1-0.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for November.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan – Walter Passmore, PARD
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Oak wilt education and outreach – Board Members Donnelly and Halley – no discussion
- d. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – Board Members Donnelly and Fleming

- 1) Board Member Donnelly is compiling different licensing programs from around the country and meeting with professionals and citizens. Will bring a draft soon.
- e. Urban Forest Open Source Map Status – Board Members Halley and Babberney
 - 1) Walter Passmore gave Board Member Halley a letter of endorsement for acquiring funds for large scale national impact projects that other might base future work on.
- f. Education sign about why we leave snags – Board Members Fleming and Halley
 - 1) Board Member Wilson asked if a sub-committee should be created. Passmore stated that this falls under the Strategic Work Plan.
 - 2) Chair Babberney appointed Board Member Fleming as lead of team.

7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Presentation of letter to City Council that will propose the creation of a Cemetery Oversight Committee – Board Members Classen and Maceo– discussed during item **5a**
- b. Discussion of possible acquisition of maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks – Board Members Halley and Fleming – no discussion
- c. Potential new role of Urban Forestry Board in regards to Heritage Tree Ordinance
 - 1) Passmore explained that the newest draft was going through boards and commissions and would not go before City Council until February
- d. Waller Creek Tunnel Presentation – Carolyn Perez of Public Works - moved before item **6a** at the request of staff member Cardenas.

8. ADJOURN: Chair Babberney adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. without objection