

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD  
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING  
17, February, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 17, February, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Halley called the Board Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Shannon Halley – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Jessica Wilson, Nevic Donnelly, Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen

**Staff in Attendance:** PARD: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Anthony Cardenas, Administrative Assistant, Austin Energy: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, PDRD: Michael Embesi, City Arborist

**1. CALL TO ORDER****2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Skipped – minutes were not available until later in the meeting.

**3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- a. Sharon Blythe, Activist for Austin Memorial Cemetery – No broad plan for dispensing in care to plots in a proactive manner.
  - 1) Board Member Donnelly moved to bring up item 6g up to this point. Board Member Fleming seconded.
  - 2) Board Member Donnelly moved to have committee work on Board Member Classen's letter to City Council and bring back to next meeting. Board Member Classen seconded. Motion passed 6-0-1

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS****5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Manager, PARD regarding Forestry's numbers for January as well as upcoming plantings and new hires.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for January. AE finishing work in oak wilt and bird habitat areas and will also receive recognition for Tree Line USA from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- c. The presentation was made by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD regarding Planning and Development's numbers as well as the new Heritage Tree Ordinance currently in effect.

**6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan – Walter Passmore, PARD
  - 1) Heritage Tree ordinance will be a big topic at the Tree Oversight Committee meetings for a while.
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Oak wilt education and outreach – Board Members Donnelly and Halley

- 1) Re-thinking some of language on flyer.
- d. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – Board Members Donnelly, Fleming & Wilson
  - 1) Board Members Donnelly and Halley are working on draft.
- e. Urban Forest Open Source Map Status – Board Members Halley and Babberney – no discussion
- f. Education sign about why we leave snags – Board Members Fleming and Halley
  - 1) Board Member Fleming was asked by Margaret Russell, PARD to see what signs are already on sight in the preserves before meeting is set.
- g. Review/refinement of letter to City Council that will propose the creation of a Cemetery Oversight Working Group – Board Members Classen and Wilson
  - 1) Discussed under Citizen Communication
- h. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks – Board Members Halley and Maceo
  - 1) Board Member Maceo stated there are still only two bids and they are awaiting a third.
  - 2) Board Member Halley stated they are in talks with a person in the city who deals in land acquisition.

**7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Presentation regarding construction to take place for new Zachary Scott Theater Center by Nick Naccarato, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services office
  - 1) Postponed by presenter to gather more information – item will stay as New Business
- b. Report on the passage of the Heritage Tree ordinance and its creation of new responsibilities for the Urban Forestry Board – Board Members Halley and Babberney
  - 1) Board Member Halley stated the UFB needs to work on the development of an expansion list for the species of trees the Heritage Tree ordinance covers.
  - 2) Michael Embesi, PDRD suggested compiling an expansion list before July.
- c. Request for new agenda items
  - 1) Discussion of the state of the Urban Forest Summit – Board Member Halley
  - 2) Discussion of Council agenda item about removal of trees for electrical substation at Morris-Williams Golf Course for Mueller Development – Board Member Halley
  - 3) Presentation developed by Michael Embesi, PDRD and presented by environmental reviewer regarding Heritage Tree variances – Board Member Maceo

**8. ADJOURN: Vice Chair Halley adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m. without objection**