

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
21, April, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 21, April, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Babberney called the Board Meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

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

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**

Board Member Donnelly motioned to pass meeting minutes from March 24th and April 15th seconded by Board Member Classen. Motion passed 7-0-0.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Moved to 6i.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

- a. The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Manager, PARD regarding Forestry's numbers for March.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for March. Mileage and trees distributed are up. Customer calls are also up.
- c. The presentation was made by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD regarding naming of island in front of City Hall and emergency rules of Heritage Tree Ordinance.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan – no discussion
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Oak wilt education and outreach – no discussion
- d. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – no discussion
- e. Urban Forest Open Source Map Status – Remove this item per Board Member Halley
- f. Education sign about why we leave snags – no discussion
- g. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks – Board Members Halley and Maceo
 - 1) Board Member Maceo will meet with 3rd person next Wednesday for bids
- h. Discussion of Heritage Tree Ordinance – Board Members Halley and Babberney

- 1) 23 heritage trees applied for removal. 15 were allowed.
- i. Developing a policy for information that COA arborists provide citizens – Board Members Babberney and Donnelly
 - 1) Citizen Communication: Keith Brown, Tara Hamilton, Dorian Davey, Chris Poth, Jon Ogden donated their time to a presentation by Guy LeBlanc; all supporting proposed language for distribution regarding oak wilt.
 - 2) Board Member Donnelly moved to accept wording agreed upon after discussion. Seconded by Board Member Fleming. Motion passed 6-0-1. The wording is as follows:

Current research supports that more than 95% of the spread of oak wilt occurs underground via roots (Juzwik '83). However, aboveground infection can also occur through open wounds on trees. Wounding mechanisms can include wind, hail, vehicle damage, construction activity, squirrel activity, bird activity, or tree pruning. Some research indicates that this type of spread can be minimized by taking extra precautions when pruning oak trees, especially when climatic conditions are most conducive to the movement of the disease spores. In central Texas, these climatic conditions are most likely to occur during the spring.

Temperature is the primary factor in spreading the disease aboveground, therefore, pruning recommendations based on calendar dates are, at best, educated assumptions. It is inevitable that some trees may require care during “non-recommended” pruning times. For this reason, when oak pruning is done during these times, it should only be performed by people fully trained and experienced in proper oak wilt pruning precaution techniques. These techniques include sanitizing tools between properties, making proper pruning cuts, and immediately covering any wounds with a thin coating of low toxicity wound paint. If you are unsure about how to do this, you should consult a Texas Oak Wilt Certified Arborist.

7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Discussion on the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion
- b. Discussion of Council agenda item about removal of trees for electrical substation at Morris-Williams Golf Course for Mueller Development – Remove per Board Member Halley
- c. Organizing a workday schedule for Urban Forest Steward graduates – no discussion
- d. Request for new agenda items
 - 1) Presentation by Nadine Morning regarding invasive species – Board Member Fleming
 - 2) Presentation of PARD budget by Angela Means, PARD

8. ADJOURN: Chair Babberney adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m. without objection