



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
16, June, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 16, June, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Halley called the Board Meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

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

Staff in Attendance: PARD: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Margaret Russell, Cultural Arts & Education Program Manager; Anthony Cardenas, Administrative Assistant, Austin Energy: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, PDRD: Michael Embesi, City Arborist; Mike McDougal, Environmental Review Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Wilson motioned to pass meeting minutes from May 19th with amendment to support Zachary Scott Theater project pending the relocation of the memorial tree to a suitable location, seconded by Board Member Fleming. Motion passed 5-0-2.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. PARD

1) The presentation was made by Margaret Russell, Cultural Arts & Education Program Manager regarding PARD's attempt to hire a consultant using Watershed Protection funds for invasive species.

2) The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager regarding Forestry's numbers for May. Passmore also stated that tree cutting in Zilker was about to start.

b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for April. Miles completed and trees distributed are down. AE is about to begin work in oak wilt areas.

c. The presentation was made by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD regarding numbers for April. The requests for tree removal are up. 3,200 inches have been permitted to be removed this month. Also, PDRD might release a public service announcement to water trees to reduce mortality.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan

1) Walter Passmore stated that a lot of what has been put into place thus far is for internal use type of documents.

- 2) Board Member Halley stated that the intent of the team is to cast a broader net in regards to development patterns and the relationship between development and the urban forest and whatever impacts/benefits may arise.
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
 - c. Oak wilt education and outreach
 - 1) Michael Embesi presented the recommendations that were passed by the Board. The material has not been distributed yet.
 - 2) Board Member Classen motioned to reconsider/review the wording for oak wilt education, seconded by Board Member Maceo. Motion passed 5-0-2. Item to be placed on the agenda for August.
 - 3) Embesi presented door hangers to the Board that are being passed out in oak wilt areas.
 - 4) Board Member Halley requested to remove item from the agenda
 - d. Professional licensing of tree care professionals
 - 1) Board Member Wilson stated that it is in refinement stage to be placed in clause form.
 - e. Education sign about why we leave snags
 - 1) Fleming spoke with Margaret Russell and an appointment will be set up. Once a time is settled upon, Russell will invite others to the meeting who would have input on the matter.
 - f. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks
 - 1) The grant is not written, but Board Members Halley and Maceo are moving on with the process.
 - g. Discussion of Heritage Tree Ordinance
 - 1) Board Members Halley and Maceo attended a meeting on April 27th. The rules are in the process of becoming permanent rules.
 - h. Discussion of the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion
- 7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**
- a. Discussion on the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion
 - b. Recommendations for new process to provide tree overlays at zoning process stage – Board Members Maceo and Halley
 - 1) Presentation was given by Mike McDougal, PDRD.
 - 2) Board Member Halley will make a subcommittee with Board Members Maceo and Wilson to further investigate the issue to go before Zoning and Plotting to create a new process to provide tree overlays at the zoning process stage.

(Item 7b was moved up above 5b)
 - c. Provide update of status of trees at Zilker – Walter Passmore
 - 1) Passmore stated that a public meeting was held and there were no objections to removing dead trees. Also provided draft plan for providing planting spaces and keeping present trees alive.
 - d. Request for new agenda items
 - 1) Discussion of ideal trees for specific areas that are cost effective – Board Member Classen
 - 2) Heritage trees species list update – Board Member Fleming
 - 3) Report on trees on Elisabet Ney Museum grounds – Board Member Halley
- 8. ADJOURN: Vice Chair Halley adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m. without objection**