

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD  
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING  
18, August, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 18, August, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Halley called the Board Meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:** Shannon Halley, Peggy Maceo, Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen

**Staff in Attendance:** PARD: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Emily King, Environmental Program Coordinator; Andy Anstrom, Forestry Intern; 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 Fleming motioned to pass meeting minutes from July 21<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Board Member Classen. Motion passed 4-0-0.

**3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- a. Patrick Brewer – Is in support of Zilker Tree Rescue Project, but would like to see the standard procedure followed; incorporating compost completely through impacted zone.
- b. Pam Thompson – Spoke in regards to Montopolis Park and Montopolis Park Tributary (very polluted region). Land in the area is attempting to be donated to City of Austin. She would like to encourage the COA to accept the property and gather groups to donate clean up time. Thompson is hoping the trees will not be cut and that heritage trees in the area will be protected.
- c. Peter Steinhart – Spoke in regards to Zilker Tree Rescue Project. Would also like for project to adhere to original procedure.

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

- a. The presentation was made by Andy Anstrom, Forestry Intern, PARD regarding an update on Neighborwoods trees prior to 1999 and their survival rate. Visited 5% of addresses (477 homes). 496 of 775 trees are still alive.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for July. Number of trees distributed is down due to hot weather. AE is pruning in oak wilt areas and will soon be moving to bird habitat areas after September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- c. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD stated that until the end of the month they will be receiving comments on proposed rules. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> month that the inches of diseased trees have recessed. Board Member Maceo inquired as to status of Bolm tree as well as minimum amount of land required to actually protect a tree.

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

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan – no discussion
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – no discussion
- d. Education sign about why we leave snags – no discussion
- e. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks
  - 1) The UFB is not in a position to apply for a grant. Austin Heritage Tree Foundation will apply for the grant.
- f. Discussion of Heritage Tree Ordinance
  - 1) Board Member Halley was on the phone during CNO meeting to talk about possible mitigation and penalties for removals of heritage trees.
- g. Discussion of the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion  
**(Item 6h was delivered after Item 7e)**
- h. Zilker Tree Rescue Project grant application – Walter Passmore, PARD
  - 1) Walter Passmore stated that 8 of the 89 trees have died in the past month. A purchase order has just been signed for post and chain fencing similar to that at Treaty Oak Park. The Urban Forestry Division will pay for that as well as four 2500 gal. water tanks.
  - 2) Passmore also stated that he met with the selected contractor, Austin Heritage Tree Care, and the details for the project were being worked out. Board Member Fleming inquired as to how the bids were solicited and requested a list of to whom the bid was solicited.
  - 3) Zoila Vega gave a history of the project up until the present. She also gave a breakdown of the procedure recommended for the Zilker trees.
  - 4) Vega is applying for a separate grant under \$5,320 to acquire 280 yards of TOP Dirt/compost.
  - 5) Board Member Fleming made a motion to approve Zoila's \$5,320 compost grant. Board Member Classen seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0 (Amendment made to motion by Board Member Fleming to recommend that PARD consults with vendors and departmental heads to incorporate mulch 8"-12". Board Member Classen seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0).
  - 6) Board Member Fleming motioned to recommend that recommendations of contract be attached to current contract before it is signed. Board Member Maceo seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Organizing a workday schedule for Urban Forest Steward graduates – Board Member Halley
  - 1) Board Member Halley will work on and will take comments.
- b. Heritage trees species list update – Board Member Fleming – no discussion  
**(Item 7c moved above Item 4)**
- c. Presentation by Robin Camp, Public Works, to report on trees on Elisabet Ney Museum grounds – Board Member Halley
  - 1) Save America's Treasures, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and several other programs funded the restoration of the Elisabet Ney Museum and grounds which began in 2007.
  - 2) There was an attempt to restore the landscape to the way Ney kept it when she lived there.
  - 3) Many invasive trees were removed as well as a live oak leaning against the house, but the bulk of the work was done on the house.
  - 4) 22 new trees were planted on site: 5 post oaks, 1 pecan, 3 red bud, 13 Ashe Junipers.
  - 5) Board Member Halley inquired as to whether or not the project would be subject to the Heritage Tree Ordinance. Michael Embesi, PDRD, responded yes.
  - 6) Board Member Halley also requested a list of trees the project group wanted to remove as well as a list of those actually removed.
- d. Grant funds for Margret Hofmann Oaks plaque – Michael Embesi
  - 1) Grant has been awarded – remove from agenda  
**(Item 7e was delivered directly after 7c)**
- e. Presentation regarding Waterloo Park/Waller Creek Tunnel project – Walter Passmore, PARD

- 1) Gary Jackson, Public Works, delivered an update for the storm water management tunnel project, stating that Keith Brown of Austin Tree Service was awarded the contract for the plan of work to be done on trees.
  - 2) Soil samples have been done and hopefully root treatments will be given by late September or early October.
  - 3) Trees will be given pruning, root flair excavation, as well as a comprehensive protection package.
  - 4) Board Member Maceo asked if anything was being done now. Brown stated that temporary irrigation was in place, but they were not allowed to work until they receive board approval. They will be authorized to start after the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - f. Discussion of Tree Overlay Subcommittee – Board Member Maceo
    - 1) Board Member Maceo presented a draft of a document to push forward to Council to recommend further disclosure in regards to tree overlay. Board members will review and discuss further at next meeting.
  - g. Urban Forest Grant Program Application for Zoila Vega and Susan Rankin – delivered during Item 6h
  - h. Election of Urban Forestry Board Officers
    - 1) Board Member Fleming motioned to keep Board Member Halley as Chair. Board Member Maceo seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.
    - 2) Board Member Fleming motioned to appoint Board Member Fleming as Vice Chair. Board Member Halley seconded. Motion passed 4-0-0.
  - d. Request for new agenda items
    - 1) Acquisition of land at Montopolis Park – Board Member Maceo and Pam Thompson
    - 2) Urban Forest Grant Fund Contract Issues – Board Member Fleming
    - 3) Reserve Ethics Officer for future meeting to give presentation (scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup>)
    - 4) Reconsideration/Review of oak wilt wording – Board Member Classen
- 8. ADJOURN: Chair Halley adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m. without objection**