



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
15, September, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 15, September, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Halley called the Board Meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

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, Economic Growth & Development Services: Nick Naccarato, Redevelopment Project Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Halley motioned to amend meeting minutes item B1 from September 1st, to state “. . . because board did not have opportunity to read document.” Board Member Classen motioned to approve amended minutes, seconded by Board Member Fleming. Motion passed 5-0-0.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL - none

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. The presentation was made by Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, PARD regarding Arbor Day celebration taking place on Longhorn Shores on October 23rd. Also, Urban Forestry is now under Natural Resources Division. Zilker Tree Rescue Project should be done before Austin City Limits event. The Tree Planting Project will probably dovetail into Tree Rescue Project.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for August. Miles worked for both the month and year are down. AE is currently working in oak wilt areas, which makes it slower. Customer calls are up due to storms. Tree distribution is down with the hot and dry weather. AE is preparing to move into working in bird habitat areas west of Mopac. They will be there until February. AE recently completed ISO 9000 audit and an audit by the National Electric Reliability Council and got recertification from both.
- c. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD stated that he gave a semi-annual report to the Environmental Board to talk about Heritage Trees. They asked about the Zilker Tree Rescue Project and the Heritage Tree process. The first variance is taking place tonight. Two heritage trees and two protected trees were impacted by a contractor. October 16th is the Austin Community Tree Giveaway in Montopolis neighborhood. Embesi stated that the rules attached to the Heritage Tree Ordinance were accepted.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan
 - 1) Walter Passmore, PARD, stated there was a special meeting about accreditation process. He requested that the board approach it as preparing an executive summary with a subcommittee. Passmore prefers to have a document completed by January 1st.
 - 2) Passmore also stated that Forestry has been conducting a land use classification to better determine how many trees they are actively performing maintenance on.
 - 3) Board Member Fleming asked if wildlife was considered in this classification. Passmore answered yes.
- b. Strategic Work Plan
 - 1) Board Member Halley requested that the document that was created to indicate who was appointed to the subcommittees be placed on the back matter website and asked that the board members be prepared to discuss the items they have accomplished within the past year.
- c. Professional licensing of tree care professionals – no discussion
- d. Education sign about why we leave snags
 - 1) Board Member Fleming stated she will have a meeting with Margaret Russell and Alice Nance. She would eventually like to put together a PowerPoint of snags and deadwood.
- e. Heritage Tree Ordinance
 - 1) Michael Embesi, PDRD, is on the agenda for Codes and Ordinances to address enforcement issues and possible citation issues.
- f. State of the Urban Forest Summit
 - 1) Board Member Halley proposed and idea for the summit: Urban Forest/Urban Forum. The idea is that they will address conflict in policies and codes that impact the urban forest through the built environment. This could include density and great streets. It would be an opportunity from people in communities surrounding Austin to look at when we're dealing with the best practices in urban forum, how are those best practices impacting the urban forest. Also, access to the Wildflower Center has been granted.
 - 2) Walter Passmore, PARD, suggested possibly contacting Emily King to ask if it is possible to utilize intern.
 - 3) Michael Embesi, PDRD, asked if Board Member Halley would be submitting a grant proposal. Halley answered yes, for food.

7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Organizing a workday schedule for Urban Forest Steward graduates – Board Member Halley – no discussion
- b. Heritage trees species list update – Board Member Fleming
 - 1) Board Member Fleming worked on ecological services part related to habitat. Board Member Wilson worked on water quality.
- c. Discussion of Tree Overlay Subcommittee – Board Member Maceo
 - 1) Board Member Maceo presented a letter regarding tree overlay.
 - 2) Board Member Fleming motioned to make draft to finalize and sign at next meeting so as to forward to Zoning and Planning and City Council, seconded by Board Member Maceo. Motioned passed 4-0-0
(Item 7d was delivered directly after 7g)
- d. Acquisition of land at Montopolis Park – Board Member Maceo and Pam Thompson
 - 1) Pam Thompson and her husband presented a slideshow including maps of trees located along Montopolis Tributary which feeds into Carson Creek.
 - 2) McAllany family owns property and would like to donate 40 acres of land to COA.
 - 3) Mr. and Mrs. Thompson request help in having trees documented so that they may be preserved and eventually have the land developed into a recreational area.
 - 4) Walter Passmore, PARD, encouraged UFB to refrain from making motions or taking action because land is still in acquisition phase.
- e. Urban forest grant fund contract issues – Board Member Fleming

1) Board Member Halley stated that if there are terms that they have agreed upon, that those conditions be written in the contract.

(Item 7f was delivered directly after 7d)

f. Reconsideration of vote of proposed oak wilt language

1) Board Member Halley gave a brief history of previous language and the confusion that arose from it. Halley also stated that the goal was to package it to be considered as a supplemental education on oak wilt.

2) After more deliberation between board members as well as citizens in attendance, Board Member Halley motioned to discuss item next month so that Pat Wentworth may attend meeting, Board Member Donnelly seconded. Motioned passed 4-1-0 (Board Member Classen opposed). Board Member Donnelly excused himself.

3) Board Member Fleming motioned to consider Board Member Classen's new recommendation, seconded by Board Member Maceo. Motion passed 4-0-0.

(Item 7g moved above Item 5)

g. Update of Zachary Scott Theater landscape plan – Nick Naccarato, Economic Growth & Development Services

1) Presentation was made regarding relocation of memorial burr oak. Proposed new location is adjacent to new parking lot.

2) Board Member Donnelly motioned to approve proposed new tree location, seconded by Board Member Classen. Motion passed 5-0-0.

h. Approval of bylaw amendment

1) Board read and approved amendment

i. Request for new agenda items

1) Request was made by Board Member Halley to have Shirley Gentry, City Clerk, City Clerk's Office to present in November.

8. ADJOURN: Chair Halley adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m. without objection