



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, February 16, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at the PARD Annex, 919 W. 28 ½ Street, in Austin, Texas.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vice Chair Peggy Maceo, Patrick Brewer, Nick Classen, Nevic Donnelly, Ryan Fleming, Shannon Halley, Jessica Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Jay Culver, Forester**

Austin Energy: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent

Planning and Development Review Department: Michael Embesi, City Arborist

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of January 19, 2011.
The minutes for the regular meeting of the 1/19/2011 were approved on Board Member Classen motion, Board Member Fleming second on a 7-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL
No citizen communications occurred.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS
**Board Member Donnelly announced that he was resigning from the Board effective immediately.
Board Member Classen announced that the TFS and the ISA Texas Chapter have developed an oak wilt statement, and he suggests adopting it by the Board.
Board Member Wilson announced that It's My Park Day and KAB events are upcoming.
Staff Member Embesi announced the upcoming Kids Science Fair on 2/24, and the search for judges.**

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS
a. Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry Program staff report on program activities and performance measures.
**Walter Passmore reported on each of these items.
Walter Passmore also reported bare root seedling projects planted ~2100 seedlings in 4 preserves, and upcoming Zilker Park tree planting is to help replace dead/dying trees.**
b. Austin Energy Utility Forestry staff report on utility forestry tree maintenance.
Ray Henning reported on this item.
c. Planning and Development Review Department City Arborist Office staff report on tree preservation, replenishment, and permitting activities for protected and heritage trees.

Michael Embesi reported on these items. Additionally he reported that a 4 minute PSA was made for private homeowners to understand tree protection measures, and showed it to the Board.

5. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Review and possibly approve amended bylaws

The amended bylaws were approved on Board Member Wilson's motion, Board Member Halley's second on a 5-0 vote.

- b. Review, suggest edits, and possibly approve the Urban Forest Management Plan

The motion to extend period of time for a working group of the Board to work on the plan, and then open the plan to public process was approved on Board Member Halley's motion, Board Member Brewer's second, on a 4-1 vote. Those members voting aye were: Vice Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Halley, and Wilson. Those voting nay were: Board Member Classen.

- c. Appeal of mitigation for ROW tree at 5200 Avenue H by William Sandler

Board Members Brewer and Fleming recused themselves from this item due to a conflict of interest.

The motion to uphold the decision and appraisal by PARD, and appeal to a higher board if so inclined failed on Board Member Halley's motion, due to the lack of a second.

The motion to absolve liability and plant another tree failed on Board Member Classen's motion, second by Board Member Wilson, on a 2-2 vote. Those members voting aye were: Board Members Classen and Wilson. Those members voting nay were: Vice Chair Maceo and Board Member Halley. The motion to make no decision and to send to another board was made on Board Member Halley's motion, Board Member Classen's second, on a 4-0 vote.

- d. Request for new agenda items

Board Member Classen requested that the statement developed by the TFS and the ISA Texas Chapter concerning oak wilt be considered for adoption by the Board.

Board Member Maceo requested consideration of a set of recommendations about tree identification to be sent to the Zoning and Platting Commission.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM

None discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Maceo adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.