



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, March 16, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on March, 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, Ryan Fleming, Shannon Halley, Jessica Wilson

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Keith O'Herrin, Forester
April Thedford, Program Coordinator
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager
Kelly Snook, Assistant Director**

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 6:31 p.m.

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of February 16, 2011. The minutes for the regular meeting of the 2/16/2011 were approved on board member Maceo's motion, board member Halley's second, on a 6-0 vote with the following amendments:

1) Addition of Angela Hanson, Forester under 'Staff in Attendance'

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL
No citizen communications occurred.**

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Walter Passmore announced that Dr. Tom Hays has been nominated for the vacant Urban Forestry Board position.**

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry Program staff report on program activities and performance measures.**
Walter Passmore presented his staff report.
- b. Austin Energy Utility Forestry staff report on utility forestry tree maintenance.**
Ray Henning presented his staff report.
- 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 presented his staff report. Additionally he made three (3) announcements:

- 1) City Manager Marc Ott has approved an upgraded (emergency rules) version of the Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM) which is now in effect.
- 2) The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan is moving to phase 3, which is open to the public. Michael encouraged board members to participate.
- 3) Michael brought 4 bills currently up for debate at the Capitol to the attention of the board as follows:

A) A bill concerning the ability of the City to enforce water protection and erosion prevention measures in the ETJ

B) A bill concerning the ability of municipalities to assess a fee for the removal of a tree

C) 'Takings Bill' concerning the percentage of impervious cover the City can limit new construction to

D) A bill concerning labeling of literature regarding invasive species stating that the information in the literature is speculative and not enforceable by law

5. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Hold officer elections

The motion to delay elections until the regularly scheduled April meeting was approved on Board Member Fleming's motion, Board Member Classen's second on a 5-0 vote.

Board Member Wilson abstained.

b. Request for new agenda items

Board Member Fleming requested a presentation regarding illegal tree removal or illegal impacts to trees to include the investigation, appraisal and notification processes.

Board Member Halley requested the addition of appraisal methodology and consistency within the appraisal process to the presentation.

Board member Wilson requested a presentation on the summary of the Urban Forest Summit.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM

a. Tree Overlay letter to ZAP – Board Member Halley and Maceo

No motion was made.

b. Oak wilt language – Board Member Classen

The motion to rescind the oak wilt statement adopted in October 2010 and adopt a new oak wilt statement was approved on a motion by Board Member Classen, seconded by Board Member Brewer on a 6-0 vote. The friendly amendment by Board Member Halley was to separate the action of rescinding the old oak wilt statement from the action of adopting the new oak wilt statement. This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Board Member Brewer, who seconded the motion.

There was a motion by Board Member Classen, seconded by Board Member Brewer, that the Urban Forest Board adopt new, significantly different oak wilt language and forwards to city council to adopt as city policy.

The substitute motion to support the recommendations of the joint committee of Texas Forest Service (TFS), Texas Agri-Life Extension (TAES) and International Society of Arboriculture – Texas (ISAT) with regard to pruning guidelines for prevention of oak wilt in Texas, and promote its use by city staff was approved on Board Member Brewer's motion, Board Member Wilson second on a 6-0 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Maceo adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.