



URBAN FORESTRY BOARD MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 15, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on June 15, 2011 at the City Hall, Room 1029, 301 W. 2nd Street, in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Brewer – Chair, Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Jessica Wilson, Ryan Fleming

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist
Patrick Fuller – Division Manager – Park Rangers
Michael Sledd – Park Ranger
David Papke – Park Ranger**

Austin Energy: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent

Planning and Development Review Department: Michael Embesi, City Arborist

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of April 20, 2011.

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's May 18, 2011 regular meeting, were approved on Board Member Maceo's motion, Board Member Wilson's second, on a 4-0 vote.

Board Member Fleming off the dais and Board Members Halley and Classen were absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Zoila Vega – She's concerned about Public Works maintenance of street trees and would like the Forestry division to be in charge of it.

She would like the pruning of the trees to be done by volunteers and she is concerned about the tree care in the cemeteries.

Sharon Blythe – Concerned that trees in cemetery is suffering due to lack of proper watering.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Wilson made two announcements:

1. Keep Austin Beautiful awards application deadline is June 17th at 5 p.m.

2. The Neighborhood beautification Grants deadline is June 24th at 5 p.m.

Michael Embesi wanted to remind everyone that Tree of the Year nominations are still being accepted until June 30, 2011.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

Michael Sledd, Park Ranger; David Papke, Park Ranger and Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Park Rangers: presented an update on the Preserves Management Plan currently in process of being restructured.

Michael Embesi, City Arborist with Planning and Development Review presented his staff report on the Heritage Tree Program and the monthly Tree preservation and replenishment.

Ray Henning, Austin Energy presented his staff report.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager presented his report on these items:

1. Imagine Austin
2. Street Tree Contractor has been released due to depletion of funding; now Forestry crew is providing the maintenance.
3. Budget Process

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Action Item: Urban Forestry Grant application Mueller Substation tree planting and transplanting project:

The motion to approve the grant for Mueller Substation enhancements was approved with the following friendly amendment on motion by Board Member Fleming, seconded by Board Member Wilson. The amendment stated by Board Chair Brewer was funding for enhancement project is contingent on the following:

- a. Plant size limited to no larger than 15 gallons.
- b. Species selection limited native plants.
- c. Removal of staking expense.
- d. Limit total additional enhancement budget to \$43,200.00

This was accepted by Board Member Fleming, (maker of the motion), and by Board Member Wilson who seconded the motion.

Motion was approved on a 4-1 vote. Members voting aye were: Chair Brewer, Vice Chair Hayes, Board Members Fleming, and Wilson. Members voting nay were: Board Member Maceo.

2. Action Item: Promote proper tree watering to the public:

Board Chair Brewer turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Hayes for this item. Chair Brewer made a motion to adapt a recommendation to be distributed to local outlets to promote proper watering of trees. Board Member Wilson seconded on a 5-0 vote.

3. Action Item: Sponsor or facilitate training of volunteers on young tree pruning.

Board Chair Brewer turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Hayes for this item. Chair Brewer made a motion to recommend to staff:

Any volunteers performing young tree pruning on City trees be addressed at an elevated level with an associated field practical test to acquire young tree pruning specialist designation before allowing the volunteer to proceed. Also he recommended training be based on University of Florida's young tree pruning program and volunteer support of this effort for the volunteers. Board Member Wilson seconded on a 4-0 vote. Board Member Fleming was off dais.

4. Action Item: Schedule a retreat for Board Members to discuss the UFB Strategic and Comprehensive Plan and other related Board issues.

Motion by Board Member Wilson, seconded by Board Member Maceo, approved on a 4-0 vote. Board Member Fleming was off the dais.

5. Action Item: Draft letter recommending City Council to fund FTE to oversee the Invasive Management Plan.

Motion by Board Member Wilson, seconded by Board Chair Brewer, approved on a 4-0 vote. Board Member Fleming off dais.

6. Discussion Item: Promoting better tree care in Austin cemeteries.

Board discussed putting together a working group and contact PARD staff that have direct knowledge of the contract and get a copy to review the specifics, make recommendations and update the full board on actions taken at the next board meeting.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Update on Roy Guerrero Park.
2. Review the various tree species list used by the City for consolidation and coordination of species.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.