



## **URBAN FORESTRY BOARD MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on July 27, 2011 at the City Hall, Room 1029, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, in Austin, Texas.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

**Patrick Brewer – Chair, Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Ryan Fleming; Nick Classen**

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager  
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager  
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist  
Gene Faulk – Project Coordinator  
Fred Fuller – Landscape Architect II**

**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 June 15, 2011.**

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's June 15, 2011 regular meeting, were approved with the following amendment on Board Member Maceo's motion, Vice Chair Hayes second, on a 4-1. The members voting aye were Board Chair Brewer, Vice Chair Hayes, Board member Classen and Board Member Maceo. The members voting no were Board Member Fleming. The amendments were a statement made by during citizen communication by Zoila Vega that she would like the pruning of the trees to be done by volunteers, and she is concerned about the tree care in the cemeteries. Her statement should have read "she is opposed to pruning done by volunteers unless extensive training, close supervision, and proficiency are demonstrated".

### **2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Sharon Blythe** – Watering of trees in cemeteries, general comments on agenda item G3.

**Michael Fossum** – Presented slide show to board of property located at 300 Bowie. Mr. Fossum asked the board to consider writing a letter to the Environmental Board regarding a zoning variance submitted for the removal of a 32 ft. pecan tree.

**Charlie McCabe** – Watering, Mulching, general comments on agenda item G2.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Chair Brewer announced the resignation of Jessica Wilson and Shannon Halley.

### **4. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

1. Gene Faulk – PARD Project Manager provided the board with an update on the proposed disc golf course at Roy Guerrero Park.

2. Michael Embesi – City Arborist with Planning and Development Review presented his staff report on the Heritage Tree Program and monthly Tree Preservation and Replenishment.
3. Ray Henning – Line Clearance Superintendent with Austin Energy presented his monthly staff report.

#### **5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT**

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager presented his report on the Barton Springs Tree Maintenance, along with a draft copy of the staff proposal overview.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Action Item: Form a working group to review and consolidate the various tree species list used by the City.**

Vice Chair Hayes motioned to form a working group was formed to review and consolidate the list of various tree species used by the City. Those designated to work with the group are Vice Chair Hayes, Board Member Fleming, and Michael Embesi, Planning and Development Review. The motion passed with no objections.

2. **Action Item: Review and discuss the watering of public trees during the drought conditions and make recommendations to PARD staff.**

This item was withdrawn, no action was taken.

3. **Discussion and Action Item: Discuss the watering of public cemetery trees and make recommendations to PARD staff and City Council.**

Motion by Board Member Maceo to draft letter for recommendations regarding watering of public cemetery trees and present to PARD staff, Sara Hensley, Director; Cora Wright, Assistant Director; Kelly Snook, Assistant Director; and City Council. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Board Member Fleming, motion was approved on a 5-0 vote.

4. **Discussion Item:** Discuss needs, desired outcome and possible request to City Council regarding FTE funding to support the heritage tree outreach within the arborist program. This item was withdrawn, no action taken.

#### **7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**Bowie Street Heritage Tree**

**Austin Street – Tree Resource Project Proposal: Fall 2011, GEOG 4427.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.