



URBAN FORESTRY BOARD MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, August 17, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on August 17, 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 6:35 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Brewer – Chair, Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Christopher Kite, Ryan Fleming

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager

Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager

Kelly Snook, Assistant Director – PARD

Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist

Patrick Fuller – Division Manager – Park Rangers

Michael Sledd – Park Ranger

David Papke – Park Ranger

Robert Brennes – Project Manager, PARD

Brian Angell – Intern –Forestry

Greg Mast - Forestry

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 July 27, 2011.

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's July 27, 2011 regular meeting, were approved on Board Member Fleming's motion, Board Member Maceo's second, on a 4-0 vote.

Vice Chair Hayes off the dais and Board Member Classen was absent.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Sharon Blythe – Would like agenda items G3 & G4 approved.

Michael Fossum – Presented slides regarding Shoal Creek renovation project and would like reconsideration to be given in making some design changes to keep more vegetation along the creek.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Board Member Christopher Kite was introduced by Chair Brewer.

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 and a power point presentation of some the projects the Rangers have been working on .

Robert Brennes – Project Manager, PARD discussed the current status of the Shoal Creek Trail renovation project.

Brian Angell and Greg Mast – Forestry Interns – PARD, presented power point presentations on their summer projects.

Michael Embesi, City Arborist with Planning and Development Review reported the number of dead tree removals was holding steady. Also possibly next week channel 8 will conduct a extended interview or demonstration on supplemental watering, due to the efforts of the Board and particularly Board Member Fleming for contacting channel 8 Also Item G1 of the agenda regarding the Heritage trees was discussed at this time.

Ray Henning, Austin Energy presented his monthly staff report.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON’S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager gave an update on the current status of the process of the transitioning the responsibility of street trees to Public Works. The process is still in draft form and forestry has been meeting with Public Works to negotiate details on how things are going to transpire and what the transitioning period is going to be.

Walter also discussed the current draft contract regarding cemetery tree watering.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Discussion Item: Briefing from Board Member Maceo regarding Heritage Trees.

This item was discussed during the staff report.

b. Discussion Item: Review and discuss the Austin Street-Tree Resource Project Proposal for fall 2011 offered by Texas State University.

Vice Chair Hayes informed the board of the proposed class project between the City of Austin Urban Forestry Program and the GEOG 4427 Advanced GIS class at Texas State University to develop the City’s existing spatial database. There is no cost to the City of Austin.

c. Action Item: Approval to send a letter to Mayor and Council addressing concerns with recommendations for the watering of public cemetery trees.

Motion was made by: Board Member Maceo, 2nd by: Vice Chair Hayes

The motion was approved with the following friendly amendment on motion by Board Member Fleming, 2nd by Board Member Maceo, passed on a vote of 5-0. The friendly amendment from Vice Chair Hayes to correct some typographical errors was accepted by Board Member Maceo and Vice Chair Hayes who 2nd the motion.

d. Action Item: Approval to send a letter to PARD, Mayor and City Council with recommendations for changes in the public cemetery maintenance contract.

Motion was made by Board Member Maceo, 2nd by Board Member Fleming

The motion was approved with the following friendly amendment on motion by Board Member Maceo, 2nd by Board Member Fleming, passed on a vote of 5-0. The friendly amendment from Board Chair Brewer to correct some typographical errors and restructure some wording was accepted by Board Member Maceo.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.