



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on September 21, 2011 at City Hall, Room 1029, 301 W. 2nd Street, in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Brewer – Chair, Tom Hayes – Vice Chair, Peggy Maceo, Christopher Kite, 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
Regina Ramos – Intern – Forestry
Ana Gonzales – Intern – Forestry**

**Paul DiGiuseppe, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Review Department
Charles Lesniak, Environmental Policy Project Mgr, Watershed Protection Department
Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy
Michael Embesi, City Arborist: Planning and Development Review Department**

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board’s regular meeting of August 17, 2011.

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board’s August 17, 2011 regular meeting, were approved on Board Member Fleming’s motion, Board Member Maceo’s second, on a 6-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Sharon Blythe – Turf and Tree Watering Plan

Zoila Vega – Discussed emails sent to UFB regarding 360 Landfill, Daniel White tree poisoning case, and trees at Zilker Polo Fields

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

ISA Tree Conference, October 5-7, 2011, Waco, TX; Board Chair Brewer stated he has a scholarship available from Bartlett Tree for someone to attend if they could not afford to go.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Charles Lesniak, Environmental Policy Project Mgr; Watershed Protection Department presented an update to the Forestry Board regarding the Loop 360 Landfill Remediation project.

UFB members supported this project with two changes: (1) The soil used to replace soil removed under heritage trees be of similar texture or similar series; (2) The erosion control be sensitive to native conditions.

- b. Paul DiGiusspe, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Review Department presented a status update on the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- c. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Review Development. Michael stated he was contacted by Channel 8 News about work that was done by Forestry Board Members and a 20 to 30 minute video was done on tree watering.
- d. Also three court cases pertaining to violation of the tree ordinance was held this week and the individuals were fined in excess of \$1,000, and one also agreed to do 40 hours of tree community service.
- e. Ray Henning, Line Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.
- f. Regina Ramos and Ana Gonzalez, Forestry Interns, gave a power point presentation regarding the Decker Lake Preserve, and the Indian Grass Wildlife Preserves.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, briefed the board on the three items below:

- a. The Invasive Management Plan
- b. Tree planting has been temporarily cancelled due to the drought, but the situation would be re-evaluated in the event Austin gets a significant amount of rain.
- c. An Inter-departmental Wildfire Coordination group has been formed and a set of recommendations are being forwarded to the City Council for endorsement to create plans to address wildfire concerns.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Action Item:** Compile recommendations to PARD regarding future volunteer projects and professional service donations.
Board Chair Brewer recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest and left the dais.
The motion to postpone this item until October 26, 2011 was approved on Board Member Fleming's motion and second by Board Member Kite. Approved on a 4-0 vote with Board Member Classen abstaining, because he needed a clearer understanding of what the item was about.
- b. **Action Item:** Draft and approve a request to City staff to provide references as to the establishment of City owned preserves and natural areas and their intended use strategies.
This item was discussed and it was decided that Walter Passmore would provide the requested information to the board, so not action was taken on this item
- c. **Action Item:** Approve rescheduling of October board meeting due to schedule conflict of Board Chair.
Motion to reschedule Board Meeting to October 26th was approved on Board member Classen's motion; and second by Board Member Kite, approved on a 6-0 vote
- d. **Action Item:** Review and approve a letter to PARD requesting presentation and written report to list and describe current and planned projects, implemented or administered by PARD which impact vegetation within preserves, parks, greenbelts, and other open spaces.
The motion to postpone this item until October 26th, board meeting to allow for staff feedback and draft overview of the types of projects with an appendix and/or links to

procedures and policies was approved on Board Chair Brewer's motion and second by Board Member Kite. Motion was approved on a 6-0 vote.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.