



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2011**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on October 26, 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 6:35 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Brewer – Chair, Peggy Maceo, Christopher Kite, Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen, April Rose

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Charles Vaclavik, PARD Division Manager
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist
Angela Hanson – PARD Forester**

Damon Waitt, LBJ Wildflower Center

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 September 21, 2011.

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's September 21, 2011 regular meeting, were approved with the following amendment to a briefing presented by Charles Lesniak regarding the Loop 360 Landfill Remediation project.

The amendment was 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.

Motion to approve minutes with the amendments made by Board Member Maceo, 2nd by Board Member Fleming, approve on a 5-0 vote. Vice Chair Hayes absent and Board Member Classen off the dais.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Daniel White

Zoila Vega

Michael Fossum – donated his time to Zoila Vega

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Board Member April Rose was introduced by Board Chair Brewer.

Board Chair Brewer made an announcement that the Arbor Day program will be Saturday, October 29th at Zilker Park

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Michael Embesi, City Arborist gave a report on street trees per Board Member Maceo's request regarding their importance, the challenges, and some of the issues being dealt with as an entity.
- b. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, presented his monthly report. Michael also presented to the board a draft species list of trees appropriate to the Austin region that have the ability to grow 8 ft. or taller, as well as non native trees. The list was created by the working group formed by the board.
- c. Ray Henning, Line Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.
- d. Angela Hanson, PARD Forester, and Damon Waitt, LBJ Wildflower Center gave an updated presentation on the Invasive Species Management Plan.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, presented his staff report and briefed the Board on the items listed below:

- a. Street tree abatement: Walter stated it appears that Public Works did not receive budgeting for hiring a contractor, so he will be meeting with them to see what happens next.
- b. Walter provided an update on the Comprehensive Urban Forest Management Plan and provided a Summary of Process and Timeline draft. His staff is also looking into providing an online tool for the public to view the document and give input as the plan is in process. Walter also suggested to the board that moving forward with planning a retreat would definitely aid in the progress of this plan. The board is looking at dates to plan a retreat.
- c. Walter briefed the Board on the tree planting season including Arbor Day. He said they will not plant trees this Arbor Day as in the past, and he introduced the Treevolution concept which is an Evolution of Practices and a Revolution of Thought, and the Ready, Set, Plant initiative.
- d. Walter briefed the Board on the supplemental watering neighborhood/partner agreement and guideline for public tree care.
- e. Walter briefed the Board on information regarding projects and practices affecting public trees.
- f. Walter presented to the Board the idea of creating a State of the "Urban Forest Report" document which would be specific to the Board's mission. Information would be compiled this fiscal year in preparation for a report to the Board next fiscal year.
- g. Walter briefed the Board on the management plan for two City of Austin preserves.
- h. Walter briefed the Board on the grant application for inventory of heritage trees with the "Downtown Business District"
- i. Walter briefed the board on the volunteer projects management plan draft.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Action Item:** The motion to approve endorsement of the Invasive Species Management Plan was approved on Board Member Fleming's motion, Board Member Kite's 2nd, passed on 6-0 vote.
- b. **Action Item:** The motion to request PARD to investigate water usage patterns in Parks; both indoor and outdoors was approved on Board Member Fleming's motion, Board Member Rose's 2nd, on a vote of 6-0
- c. **Action Item: Election of Officers**

A motion was made to re-elect Board Chair Patrick Brewer on Board Member Fleming's motion, Board Member Kite's 2nd, passed on 6-0 vote.

A motion was made to re-elect Vice Chair Tom Hayes on Board Member Maceo's motion, Board Member Fleming's 2nd, passed on 6-0 vote.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

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