



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.
City Hall 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1029
Austin, Texas 78701

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2012**

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair Patrick Brewer, Vice-Chair Tom Hayes, Christopher Kite, Peggy Maceo

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

**Angela Hanson, Acting Urban Forestry Program
Manager**

Cora Wright, Assistant Director

Patrick Fuller, Division Manager

Robert Clawson, Administrative Specialist

Gwen McGee, Administrative Specialist

Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 5:34P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's July 18, 2012 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Vice-Chair Hayes, 2nd by Board Member Kite, and approved by a 4-0 vote. Board Members Fleming and Classen were not in attendance.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Sharon Blythe – City Cemetery and recommendation to cancel tree watering contract.

Zoila Vega – Cemetery trees at Oakwood and Cottonwood tree at Barton Springs Pool.

John Corry – Cottonwood tree at Barton Springs Pool.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Board Chair Brewer announced Tree of the Year judging has been scheduled. September 14, 2012 is visit day to determine eligibility. Arbor Day will be the presentation.
- Board Chair Brewer discussed Board functions and effectiveness.

- Angela Hanson noted thanks to Gwen McGee for support and liaison work and introduction of new liaison, Robert Clawson.

**E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS
CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Review and recommend action to City Council regarding a city-wide contract for tree trimming and removal services** – Approved at the July 18, 2012 board meeting. No action or discussion needed.

NON CONSENT

2. **Provide a recommendation to City Council regarding the proposed Barton Springs Pool General Grounds Improvements. (PowerPoint Presentation).**

Presentation by Brian Larson, Larson Burns and Smith, Inc. – Landscape Architects / Planners. Motion made by Vice Chair Hayes, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to provide further recommendations to PARD staff and City Council in September. All in favor.

Motion made by Vice Chair Hayes, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to provide further recommendations for proposed Barton Springs Pool General Grounds Improvements,. All in favor. Working group will be Chair Brewer, Vice Chair Hayes, and Board Member Kite. Recommendations to be sent to PARD and copy City Council by next Wednesday 8/22/12.

3. **Recommendation for pruning or removal of the protected cottonwood behind the Barton Springs Pool diving board.**

Presentation by Angela Hanson, Acting Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program.

Motion made by Vice Chair Hayes, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to delay action on this item until the September 2012 meeting. All in favor.

4. **Report to UFB on Working Group's progress on developing a pilot program in response to City Council Resolution 20120426-076, regarding tree care along transit corridors and in the urban core and make a recommendation on finalizing the pilot program proposal.**

Report given by Board Chair Brewer. Group has had three meetings. There will be two components: 1) identify trees that need help and, 2) identify the need of the trees, noting the tree's level of contribution to the community and also needs of the tree with historical aspects of the tree or it's location. Board will present recommendations to staff in two weeks with recommendation of three trees to go through the system. Staff will present recommendations to the Board on the process to date. Ninety day response deadline to City Council. PARD staff and Board Chair will present.

5. **UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals Progress Report**

Presentation given by Board Chair Brewer.

6. Discussion of possible action for submittal of UFB comments on the proposed Urban Wildland Interface code to lessen fire hazards in the Austin area.

Urban Wildland Interface Working Group sent this item to the board for discussion and possible action. Motion made by Board Member Kite, Seconded by Vice-Chair Hayes to delay action and discuss at September meeting. All in favor

7. Report to the UFB on Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan Working Group's progress

Presentation by Angela Hanson, Acting Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program..

8. Discuss moving remaining 2012 Urban Forestry Board meeting dates and/or time to allow for a different meeting space.

Board members present discussed and decided to keep the regularly scheduled 3rd Wednesday of each month until the end of this year.

F. BRIEFINGS

1. Chad Crager, Project Manager, Public Works Department, brief the Board regarding the Mopac Bicycle and Pedestrian bridge at Barton Creek.
2. Michael Embesi, City arborist, Planning and Development Review Department, presented the City Arborist Program Monthly Update.
3. Ana Gonzalez, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program, briefed the Board on the West Austin Park Pilot Project for Utilizing Recycled and Reclaimed Water for Trees.
4. Angela Hanson, Parks and Recreation Department, Acting Program Manager, briefed the Board on the Boggy Creek Greenbelt Reach B8 Stream Restoration.

G. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORTS

Angela Hanson, Parks and Recreation Department, Acting Program Manager, preseted briefings and updated the Board on the following items:

- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety hazard.
- Status of tree watering at City cemeteries, including volunteer watering.
- Review of Forestry Management Audit accepted August 8, 2012, by City Council's Audit and Finance Committee. (Backup Attached).

H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Discuss overview of online Treeboard – 3B Strategic goals

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:32P.M.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Robert Clawson at the Parks and Recreation Department, at 978-2600, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Urban Forestry Board, please contact Angela Hanson at angela.hanson@austintexas.gov or by phone at 974-9551.