



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 19, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.
City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Room 1029
Austin, Texas 78701**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012**

Board Member in Attendance:

Chair, Patrick Brewer; Board Members Nicholas Classen, Ryan Fleming, Christopher Kite, Peggy Maceo. Vice-Chair Hayes absent.

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

Cora Wright, Assistant Director
Angela Hanson, Executive Liaison
Robert Clawson, Staff Liaison

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent

Ex-Officio Member in Attendance:

Pat Fuller, Division Manager, PARD Director Designee
Jessica Wilson, Environmental Conservation Manager, Watershed Protection Department Director Designee
Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick Brewer called the meeting to order at 5:32P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Urban Forestry Board August 15, 2012 regular meeting to be corrected regarding Item #3: Recommendation for pruning or removal of the protected cottonwood behind the Barton Springs Pool division board. To be resubmitted for approval at the regular meeting October 17, 2012. Postponed without objection.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Susan Rankin, The Trail Foundation – Urban Forest grant application for irrigation and materials.
Sharon Blythe – Cemetery Trees and maintenance at Austin Memorial Cemetery.
Zoila Vega – Discussion and recommendation on working group pilot program proposal to address City Council Resolution 20120426-076, regarding tree care along transit corridors and in the urban core.
Chair Brewer announced Board will no longer allow donation of citizen comment time. Comment limit will remain at three minutes.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Brewer: Welcome Shirley Gentry, City Clerk.

Board Member Maceo: TXDot Open House was last night. Request for comments, Save Gateway Oaks (across from Callahans). Accepting comments until 9/28/12.

Board Member Kite: Annual International Society of Arboriculturists, Waco, Texas, next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tree of the Year selected. "Old Baldy" McKinney Falls State Park. Ceremony will be Monday, October 15, 2012. October 20, 2012 is Arbor Day, Lamar Beach.

Jessica Wilson, Education Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department welcomed..

Urban Forestry Program Planting Supervisor has resigned. Two Forestry Techs to be starting soon.

Online Email training requirement for Board Members. Ninety days after reappointment to complete training.

E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and discuss the current care for the trees at Republic Square Park.
Presentation on best practices, sensitivities and challenges of Urban Foresters by Daniel Woodroffe, Austin Parks Foundation.
2. Discussion and consideration of approval of an Urban Forest Grant application for irrigation and materials for the Arbor Day tree planting at Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. Grant applicant: The Trail Foundation. Presenter: Angela Hanson, Acting Urban Forestry Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department.
Board Member Kite recused himself from discussion and action on this item. Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to approve Urban Forest grant application. Four votes in favor. Motion passed.
3. Provide a recommendation to City Council regarding the proposed Barton springs Pool General Grounds Improvements. Brian Larson, Larson, Burns and Smith, Inc, Landscape Architects / Planners.
Motion made by Board Member Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Classen to approve recommendations in the back up documentation for this item. Motion withdrawn by Board Member Maceo. Board Chair appointed working group.
4. Discussion and possible action on rules and procedures for conducting Urban Forestry Board meeting.
Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Chair.
Discussion of protocols for structure of meeting. Chair to prepare written guidelines. Discuss at October 2012 meeting.
5. Discussion and recommendation of possible action for submittal of UFB comments on the proposed Urban Wildland Interface code to lessen fire hazards in the Austin area. UFB Working Group: Urban Wildland Interface Working Group sent them item to the board for discussion and possible action.
Item pulled. Add to October 2012 regular meeting.
6. Discussion and Recommendation on working group pilot program proposal to address City Council Resolution 20120426-076, regarding tree care along transit corridors and in the urban core. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Chair.
Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Kite to approve Pilot Program. Four votes in favor, one vote opposed. Motion approved.

7. UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals Progress Report.
8. Exploration of the Online Tree Board University Training. Presentation by Board Member Kite. Training recommended for new Board members.
9. Discussion and recommendation for moving remaining 2012 Urban Forestry Board meeting dates and/or time to allow for a different meeting space. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Chair. Meeting locations to be toured by Chair Brewer, Pat Fuller and Michael Embesi.

F. BRIEFINGS

10. Monthly Update presented by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy.
11. Presentation by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.

G. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Urban Forestry Program Staff Briefing – Presentation by Angela Hanson, Acting Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program, including:

- Park Tree Permits
- Cemetery Trees
- Ready, Set, Plant.

H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

I. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting without objective at 9:18P.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.