



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 17, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.  
Parks and Recreation Annex Building  
919 W. 28 ½ Street  
Austin, Texas 78705**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012**

**Board Member in Attendance:**

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

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Parks and Recreation Department:**

Angela Hanson, Executive Liaison  
Robert Clawson, Staff Liaison

**Austin Energy Department:**

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent

**Ex-Officio Member in Attendance:**

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**

Board Member Maceo called the meeting to order at 5:37P.M.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Board member Kite and seconded by Board Member Fleming to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2012. All in Favor

Motion made by Board member Fleming and seconded by Board Member Kite to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2012. All in favor.

Note: September 19 Agenda Item E7 – UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals Progress Report. No report given.

Note: Items pulled from the October Agenda due to Board Chair and Vice Chair being absent were:

- E4 -- Discussion and possible action on rules and procedures for conducting Urban Forestry Board meeting.
- E5 -- Discussion and recommendation of possible action for submittal of Urban Forestry Board comments on the proposed Urban Wildland Interface code to lessen fire hazards in the Austin area. UFB Working Group formed of Board Members Hayes, Fleming and Zoila Vega.

- E9 -- Discussion and recommendation for moving remaining 2012 Urban Forestry Board meeting dates and/or time to allow for a different meeting space.

Discussion to add more detail on Agenda item information in future minutes and include more detail on citizen communication when applicable. Noted.

## **C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

There was no citizen communication at this meeting

## **D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Native Plant Week, Arbor Day. 9:00A.M. Saturday 10/20/12. Lamar Beach. 200 volunteers. Angela Hanson/Jessica Wilson.

Tree of the Year, announced 10/15/12. Channel 6 covered. To be on COA City View video.

Native Plant Week events all this week. View at “[www.Austintexas.gov/nativeplantweek](http://www.Austintexas.gov/nativeplantweek)”. Jessica Wilson.

Grow Zones blog published. To feature different Creek each month. Day long virtual Online training to be available mid-November regarding Urban Forester issues. \$150/participant. “Tree Risk Assessments.” Michael Embesi.

4-park video series. Nominated for “Texas Emmy” – See at [Youtube.com/Austintexas.gov](http://Youtube.com/Austintexas.gov) and [GrowGreen.org](http://GrowGreen.org). Angela Hanson/Jessica Wilson.

Invasive Species Management Plan. In implementation stage. Where invasive species located on City property information needed. [www.austintexas.gov/blogs/programs/creekside-story](http://www.austintexas.gov/blogs/programs/creekside-story). Jessica Wilson.

GIS Analyst hired. Two-year, temporary position. Started this week. Met with Angela Hanson to discuss database structure. Michael Embesi

## **E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. Election of Officers for Calendar Year 2013.**

Motion made by Board Member Fleming, seconded by Board Member Kite to re-elect Tom Hayes as Vice-Chair for 2013. All in favor.

Motion made by Board Member Classen, seconded by Board Member Fleming to re-elect Patrick Brewer as Chair for 2013. All in favor.

## **F. BRIEFINGS**

2. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor, Austin Energy, presented the Line Clearance Monthly Update. Number of trees distributed down. Hired four Line Clearance Field Coordinators. One Line Clearance Leader vacancy.

3. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department, presented the City Arborist Monthly Heritage Tree and Tree Preservation and Replenishment reports. No report on Commercial Site Plan, no accurate numbers at this point. Private Tree Permits – numbers indicate number of caliber inches. This time of year, increase in requests for grants. Public gets information from website and talks with neighborhood groups. Tree inventory has commenced. Brought on by Environmental Board’s working group. Downtown tree inventory started and will last to end of the year. Public and private properties in central business district – Lamar to, MLK to I35 to the River.

## **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:

Monthly Notification of Protected Tree Removal

List of Park Tree Permits

Over 400 subscriptions to Forestry Newsletter

Trained 29 Urban Forest Stewards

Reviewed 215 Commercial Site Plans and commented on impacts to right of way trees.

Received \$200,000 in leverage funding and donations

Completed at least 2,481 work orders

American National Standards Institute, Chapter 63, section 6, standards of care for trees and plants on public property – discussed. To be placed on next month's Agenda.

Surface Water Evaluation Team requested update on dead tree protocol – Discussed instances in which a dead tree that does not pose risk to people or property can be left in riparian areas. Policy to be established.

## **H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

- American National Standards Institute, Chapter 63, section 6, standards of care for trees and plants on public property
- Discussion and possible action on rules and procedures for conducting Urban Forestry Board meeting.
- Discussion and recommendation of possible action for submittal of Urban Forestry Board comments on the proposed Urban Wildland Interface code to lessen fire hazards in the Austin area. UFB Working Group formed of Board Members Hayes, Fleming and Zoila Vega.
- UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals Progress Report
- Discussion and recommendation for moving remaining 2012 Urban Forestry Board meeting dates and/or time to allow for a different meeting space.
- Republic Square Master Plan Status Report
- Greenwater Treatment Plant briefing.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Board member Maceo adjourned the meeting without objective at 6:45P.M.

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