



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland Drive
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

Patrick Brewer, Chair, Tom Hayes, Vice Chair, Board Members Nicholas Classen, Ryan Fleming, Chris Kite, Peggy Maceo.

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Park Ranger Division

Angela Hanson, Executive Liaison

Robert Clawson, Staff Liaison

Austin Energy Department

Ray Henning

Ex-Officio Members 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 Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 5:40P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion made by Board member Fleming, seconded by Board member Kite to postpone approval of minutes until the February 2013 meeting. The UFB Barton Springs Grounds Improvements recommendations, Proposed Wildland Urban Interface Code recommendations, and request to City Council to extend the deadline for the Pilot Program for Prominent Urban Trees, approved at the December 19, 2012 meeting to be added to the minutes and submitted in February for approval. All in favor.

For future UFB meetings, agenda items approved will be delivered the City Clerk and added as backup to that month's meeting minutes for approval at the next meeting of the Urban Forestry Board. Once confirmation is received from the City Clerk's office that the item has been received, an email will be sent to the Urban Forestry Board members.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

The first 4 (four) speakers signed up prior to the calling of the meeting to order are allowed a three-minute allotment each to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

Zoila Vega – Austin Heritage Tree Foundation – Issues were regarding mulch layer, watering of trees in December, watering until March, soaker hose placement and application rate and frequency determination.

David Orshalick – Northwest Nature Park and NoMow Riparian Zones – Focus on trees. Shoal Creek Greenbelt at Allendale and the pocket preserve and NoMow Grow Zones. Plans on ligustrum removal and disposal.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jessica Wilson – Two grow zone plantings this past weekend and several more coming up. One at Zilker Park East. Grow Green Landscape Professional training slots are full. February 13, 2013 additional date. Ray Henning – US Forest Service publication “Urban Forest Case Studies” has an article on Austin. Publication passed around for review.

Angela Hanson – Grow Green plantings last weekend at Dottie Jordan (700 seedlings) and Bartholomew Parks (900 seedlings). Christmas Tree recycling program went well. 2,000 trees collected. Distributed 2,000 Dessert Willow seedlings. Interview in process for two supervisor positions.

E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider and take action on citizen appeal of the appraised value for impact to a public tree adjacent to 5504 Jeff Davis Drive. Appeler: David Whitworth. Power point presentation given by Mr. Whitworth and Angela Hanson provided background information. Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Hayes, seconded by Board Member Kite to deny the appeal and recommend if trees are planted in lieu of fine, be smaller trees within right of way. Motion made by Board Member Fleming, seconded by Board Member Kite to amend motion to deny appeal and modify value to \$900. Previous amended motion withdrawn and new amended motion by Board Member Fleming seconded by Board Member Kite to deny appeal and recommend modification to assessed value of \$800, and change percentages. Board Member Maceo opposed. All others in favor. Motion carries.
2. Discuss and make recommendations for staff about vegetation issues in the Lower Shoal Creek and Seaholm Developments. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, Board Chair.
Item pulled by Board Chair Brewer. Postponed indefinitely.
3. Discussion and consideration of UFB Working Group suggestions on Trail Design Standards. Presenter: Tom Hayes, Board Vice-Chair. Handout distributed. Nine basic recommendations listed. Working group has been established consisting of Board Vice-Chair Hayes, and Board Members Classen and Fleming. Board Member Kite to assist. Group has not met. Information to be presented to Watershed Protection on recommendation regarding trees, vegetation and riparian areas. Work on Urban Trail Master Plan to begin in May. Document to be posted to Board and Commission website.

Note: Board Member Fleming left meeting at 8:05P.M.

F. BRIEFINGS

4. Urban Forestry Program's tree care activities at Heritage Oaks Park (2100 Parker Lane). Presenter: Angela Hanson, Acting Urban Forestry Program Manager, PARD. Power point presentation provided regarding soil analysis and prescribed treatment, scope of project, air excavation, compost amendment, and watering plan.

5. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update -- Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. No report available. Moved to new building, holidays, and flu issues with staff. Report at next meeting for December and January. Completing work in Oak Wilt areas, moving on to no-Oak Wilt areas. This is done usually around the end of January. Texas Forest Service recommendations. Board Member Maceo asked about resolutions per Oak Wilt issues at Gracywoods. Engineers are reviewing and looking at costs. Staff to give update at February meeting.
6. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Had a lull last month, as in each year. Still having database and reporting issues. Information on Urban Forest Tree Replenishment Fund, updated through 9/30/12 distributed.
7. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Verbal report given.
8. UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals Progress Report. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, Board Chair. Need renewal/refreshing of Goals. Plan retreat/Special Called meeting. Also need to produce report to City Council on accomplishments. Due in March. Recommend Special Called meeting in February or early March, on a Saturday.
9. Update on Urban Forestry Board Management Plan Working Group. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, Board Chair. Planning to have draft report by end of March.

G. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT -- Angela Hanson, Acting Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program, including:

- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety hazard. Work done in Zaragoza Park.

H. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

I. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 8:42P.M. without objection.

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