



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 17, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Park Ranger Division

Angela Hanson, Executive Liaison / Program Manager, Forestry Unit

Robert Clawson, Staff Liaison

Austin Energy:

Ray Henning

Ex-Officio Members:

Jessica Wilson, Environmental Conservation Manager, Watershed Protection Department

Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the meeting to order at 5:41P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to approve.

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.

There were no citizen communications

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D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Brewer noted changes to meeting agendas to accommodate action items and move the Executive Liaison Report to the beginning of the Briefings section. Also noted were six new Urban Forestry Board Strategic Goals for 2013.

1. Review current parameters for tree planting and to recommend enhancements in underserved communities of the City. (Champion: Board Member Kite).
2. Pursue changes in soil volume standards. (Champions: Board Chair Brewer, Board Vice-Chair Hayes and Board Member Classen).
3. Review role of the Urban Forestry Board and explore methods to increase engagement and follow-up on results. (Champions: Board Vice-Chair Hayes and Board members Classen and Maceo).
4. Improve community engagement for the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan. (Champions: Board member vanTreeck.)
5. Promote and support collaborative defense of tree preservation, including prominent trees and tree protection regulations. (Champions: Board members Fleming and Maceo).
6. Complete the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.

Angela Hanson, noted Earth Day celebration at Mueller Airport this Saturday. Also introduced new Forestry staff member, Manuel Flores. Mr. Flores described his background.

Jessica Wilson noted the Ready, Set Plant and Grow Zone events. Three interpretive hikes planned for these grow zones. Please see www.austintexas.gov/invasive.

Michael Embesi gave information on three House Bills, HB1858, HB1377, and HB 3087.

E. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT – Angela Hanson, Urban Forestry 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 risk. Primary Defects and Primary Target information added as requested at the February, 2013 meeting.

- Update on the 2012 – 2013 Ready, Set Plant! Tree seedling planting program. Ana Gonzalez, Forester, Forestry Program, Parks and Recreation Department, gave the presentation. (Please see Power Point presentation).
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan update. First of many stakeholders meeting will be May 4, 2013, 9A – 12P, City Hall. UFB Board members are encouraged to attend.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing.

1. Overview and Process for Submitting Board Recommendations to City Council. Presenter: Bob Guz, Office of the City Clerk. Mr. Guz presented information on the new process and procedures for posting Boards and Commission recommendations and how they will get posted to the City of Austin website, and forwarded to Mayor and City Council members. Recommendation template should include Name of Board or Commission, Recommendation Number, Brief Description of the Topic and Recommendation Content, record of vote, and signature. Approved documents are posted to the date of the meeting. For citizen communication, Board members will request information be added to minutes.
2. Duncan Park BMX area: Tree Impacts and Future Plans. Presenter: Marty Stump, Project Management Supervisor, Park Planning, Design and Construction, Parks and Recreation Department. Presentation given using power point presentation posted to UFB Boards and Commission website. Discussion ensued regarding 2011 tree assessment completed comparing amount of soil compaction and amount of cut or fill, on tree-by-tree basis, and Duncan Park having been identified as a possible heritage tree site. Trees are being re-evaluated to determine what appropriate mitigation would be.

3. Cutting of vegetation by volunteers and others on city properties adjacent to residential areas implemented as part of Firewise program. Presenter: Michael Sledd, Park Ranger Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department. Presentation given using power point presentation posted to UFB Boards and Commission website. There was discussion regarding no hardwoods being cleared, only dead woods

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Duncan Park BMX area: Tree Impacts and Future Plans. Presenter: Board Chair Brewer. Motion made by Board Member vanTreeck, seconded by Board Member Fleming to make recommendations to staff about improvements to Duncan Park. Motion withdrawn. Working group appointed consisting of Board Chair Brewer and Board Members vanTreeck and Fleming, and invite individuals from Friends of Duncan Park and Austin Parks Foundation.
2. Discussion and possible action regarding cutting of vegetation by volunteers and others on city properties adjacent to residential areas implemented as part of Firewise program. Presenter: Board Chair Brewer. Working group formed of Board Vice-Chair Hayes, Board Member Fleming, and PARD Park Ranger Supervisor Michael Sledd. To work with staff to review procedures and protocols on cutting of vegetation by volunteers and others on city properties.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing:

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Ray Henning provided his monthly report.
2. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Michael Embesi provided the monthly report.
3. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Michael Embesi provided the monthly report.
4. Update on Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan Working Group. Presenter: Board Chair Brewer. Policy elements completed. To be reviewed by inter-departmental staff. Next step is engagement of the public.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

1. Update regarding proposed Shoal Creek Trail project at Pease Park. Presenter: Christina Calvery, Project Manager, Public Works Department: and Morgan Byars, Civil engineer, Watershed Protection Department. (Briefing).
2. PARD Budget Report. Presenter: Angela Means, Financial Services Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department. (Briefing).
3. Strategic Goal Completion: Champion: Board Member Maceo. (Briefing).
4. Reclaimed water Infrastructure. Presenter: Board Member Maceo. (Briefing).
5. UFB Review and update on Strategic Goals. Presenter: Board Chair Brewer. (Briefing).

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM with no objection.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 (four) 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.