



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 15, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

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

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, Line Clearance Supervisor

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 5:35P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board (UFB) meeting of March 20, 2013.
Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Hayes, Seconded by Board member Kite to approve minutes as presented. Approved by Board Chair Brewer, Board Vice-Chair Hayes and Board members Classen, Kite and Maceo. Board Member Fleming abstained. Board member vanTreeck absent.
2. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board (UFB) Special Called meeting of April 13, 2013.
Motion made by Board member Kite, Seconded by Board member Maceo to approve minutes as presented. Approved by Board Chair Brewer, Board Vice-Chair Hayes, and Board members Classen, Kite and Maceo. Board member Fleming abstained. Board member vanTreeck absent.

3. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of April 17, 2013.
Motion made by Board member Fleming, seconded by Board member Kite to approve minutes as presented. Previous UFB documenting procedures remain. Approved by all Board members present. Board member vanTreeck absent.

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.

Mary Arnold – Interest in hearing presentation on reclaimed water rates. Keep rates affordable for trees, parks etc.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jessica Wilson – Invasive Species Management Plan and upcoming training dates, please go to www.austintexas.gov/invasive.

Angela Hanson – Public participation in Community Wildfire Protection Plan request.

Michael Embesi – update on House Bills 1377 and 1858. Both voted out of Committee.

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. Information handed out at meeting.
- Urban Forestry Program's partnership with Texas State University's GIS Program and Overview of completed products. This is the third semester that Urban Forestry program has partnered with TSU GIS program to do data analysis that helps us make management decisions. Two students (Chad Sydow and Matthew Leach) presented on their project that related tree canopy to water quality watersheds.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

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.
Power point presentation given. Discussion followed concerning mulching, restrictions to stream beds, buffer areas, trails on both banks, protecting critical root zones, current and future heritage trees review process, use of gravel in erosion areas and benefits to trees, and use of filters and weed barriers.
2. PARD FY14 Budget. Presenter: Angela Means, Parks and Recreation Department, Financial Services Division Manager.
Angela Means presented the PARD FY14 budget information. Discussion followed concerning yearly priority unmet service demands, partial federally funded items, 2006 bond monies, and future special events.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action regarding proposed Shoal Creek Trail project at Pease Park. Presenter: Board Chair Patrick Brewer.
Briefing requested by Board member vanTreeck. Discussion regarding heritage tree protection questions and Board could help inform decisions. No action to be taken by UFB at this time. Item tabled.

2. Review, edit and approve letter to City Council recommending additional resources allocated to PARD Forestry. Presenter: Board Chair Brewer.
Motion made by Board member Fleming, Seconded by Board member Kite to approve letter to City Council recommending additional resources allocated to PARD Forestry. Discussion followed regarding changes to letter. Original motion withdrawn. Motion made by Board member Fleming, Seconded by Board member Kite to approve letter to City Council with changes made by Board members. All Board members present in favor. Board member vanTreeck absent.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Reclaimed Water Infrastructure. Presenter: Dan Pederson, Reclaimed Project Manager, Austin Water Utility.
Mr. Pederson presented the information. Discussion followed regarding residential customers having availability, safety using on food crops, bulk frequent water users, pilot projects, master planning, and cost to Parks for using this water.
2. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy.
Mr. Henning presented the monthly report. No discussion.
3. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Mr. Embesi presented the monthly report. No discussion.
4. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Mr. Embesi presented the monthly report. Discussion followed regarding Live Oak at Cannon Mark Way, poor pruning practices noted on report, and illegal removals on Shoalwood Avenue.
5. Update on Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan Working Group. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, Board Chair.
Board Chair Brewer provided the Working Group update. Changing name to Grow Austin. Website will be on PARD website. Discussion followed regarding having information from meetings with staff available to the Board. Minutes to be provided to Board members.
6. Monthly Status Briefing and Discussion of 2013 Urban Forestry Board Strategic Goals. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, Board Chair.
Board Chair Brewer provided an update on the 2013 Strategic Goals. No discussion.
7. 2012 Strategic Goal Briefing. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, Board Member.
Board member Maceo presented this briefing. Letter/Flyer to be distributed submitted. Discussion followed concerning ways to forward the information.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Duncan BMX Park Working Group Update. (Board Chair Brewer, Board Members Fleming and vanTreeck). June 2013 meeting Agenda item.

Firewise Program Working Group Update. (Board Vice-Chair Hayes, Board Member Fleming, Park Ranger Supervisor Sledd). July 2013 meeting Agenda item.

Executive Liaison Report -- Monthly briefing from Public Works Department.

Executive Liaison Report – Current and Future Potable vs. Reclaimed water use costs.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting at 8:44P.M. with no objections.

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.