



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 18 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Kite, Board Members Brewer, Classen, Fleming, Maceo, Newsom. Board Member VanTreeck submitted resignation prior to the meeting.

Staff in Attendance:

Park and Recreation Department:

Angela Hanson, Forestry Program Manager, UFB Executive Liaison
Robert Clawson, UFB Staff Liaison
Pat Fuller, Ex-Officio Member
Leah Haynie, Forestry Unit
Lara Schuman – Forestry Unit

Watershed Protection Department:

Jessica Wilson, Ex-Officio Member

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor

Planning and Development Review Department:

Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Ex-Officio Member

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 6:40P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of July 17, 2013.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Fleming to approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of July 17, 2013. All Board members present in favor.
2. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board special called meeting of August 13, 2013.
Motion made by Board Member Classen, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board Special Called Meeting of August 13, 2013. Board Member Fleming abstained; Board Members Brewer, Classen, Kite, Maceo and Newsom in favor.

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.

Julie Byers – 4500 Block Balcones Drive. Contractor removed two American Elm trees.

Action Item Citizen Communication:

Zoila Vega – Austin Urban Forest Plan – Requesting changes to Austin Urban Forest Plan information such as watering of trees, protection of critical root zones of established trees, allocation of funding, use of recycled water, and concerns of public input in the Plan.

Michael Fossom – Austin Urban Forest Plan – State of Urban Forest Plan section. Numbers for sample site data for tree inventories. Non-random sample. Texas Forest Service has expertise and will assist the City at no cost for a tree inventory. Asking Board to establish canopy goals, add valid tree inventory, and, ask Texas Forest Service about assistance.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board member Daniel VanTreeck resigned from the Board.

Board Chair Kite introduced new UFB Board Member Len Newsom.

Jessica Webster -- 9/19/13 Brown Bag Seminar, Green Infrastructure – Imagine Austin Watershed Protection Ordinance to council September 26, 2013 as a briefing.

Texas Native Plant Week is November 20-26, 2013.

70 volunteers worked on monitoring invasive species on city land.

Grow Zones – finalizing dates for Fall/Spring plantings.

Angela Hanson – Wooldbridge Park opened last week. Eleven new trees planted.

Barton Springs Pool Grounds Improvement Project happening.

THIRST – Art project to be placed in the middle of Lady Bird Lake. Highlights drought on trees. Until 12/20/13.

iTree Eco Analysis on public property beginning 9/19/13 by Forestry staff. Response to resolution passed in June. Directed staff to quantify benefits of Urban Forest.

Upcoming tree work in cemeteries, along Town Lake trail and throughout parkland. Targeting dead trees.

Arbor Day – 10/26/13 – Ruiz Library. 30th year of Urban Forestry in Austin.

Michael Embesi – 9/26/13 – Presentation at Rotary Club. Benefit of trees.

American Forest having a tree tour through downtown on Arbor Day.

American Institute of Architects – Tree Talk Happy Hour bi-monthly meeting. Visit construction site and talk about how trees were incorporated. Also undeveloped sites and how trees present certain challenges with development. Will begin in October, quarterly.

E. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT – Angela Hanson, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, Urban Forestry Program, including:

- Monthly briefing from Public Works Department.
No information at this time.
- Update on items related to the Austin Urban Forest Plan.
Updates to the Plan (draft) discussed. Next step is to take to Parks and Recreation Board and Environmental Boards for review.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk.
No information at this time.
- Overview of new standard methodology for tree risk assessment.
Lara Schuman, Forester, gave the presentation – Tree Risk Assessment – Utilizing New Best Management Practices to Save Austin's Trees.
- PARD Forestry Unit received \$1 million in additional funding for FY 2014.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Discuss items related to Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Fleming for representative of the Urban Forestry Board and Executive Liaison are allowed to present draft plan to Environmental and Parks Boards for comments as part of the Boards and Commission process. Motion amended for a UFB Board representative and UFB Executive Liaison take the Urban Forest Plan, with amendments recommended by Board Member Maceo through the Boards and Commission process to the Parks Board and Environmental Board to request their review. All in attendance in favor
2. Consider Approval of Letter to City Council Regarding Soil Volume, Quality and Planting Standards for Public Landscapes, Especially in the Urban Core. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member
Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to approve the document with two minor changes noted. All in attendance in favor.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider approval of items related to Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.
There was discussion concerning changes and additions to the Plan.
2. Review Letter Regarding Soil Volume, Quality and Planting Standards for Public Landscapes, Especially in the Urban Core. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member.
Board member Brewer presented the information.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Update on the Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division's activities and plans regarding vegetation management. Presenter: Josh Portie, Fire Captain, Austin Fire Department.
Captain Josh Portie presented the information.
2. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy.
Ray Henning presented the information for July and August 2013.
3. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Michael Embesi presented the information for July and August 2013.
4. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Michael Embesi presented the information for July and August 2013.
5. City Council Resolution on Prominent Trees At Risk. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Member.
Board Member Maceo reported that meetings have been held concerning prominent tree care and process and application, and how to streamline process and simplify process to nominate trees.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Annual Election of Officers – October 16, 2013 meeting. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair.
- Update on Auditorium Shores and plantings.
- Downtown Tree Inventory Report – November 20, 2013 meeting. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist.
- Announce meeting locations for 2014 – November 20, 2013 meeting. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair
- Announce meeting dates for calendar year 2014 – November 20, 2013. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 9:06P.M.

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.