



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.  
City Hall, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Room 2017  
Austin, Texas 78701**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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**REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2013**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Members Nick Classen, Ryan Fleming, Peggy Maceo. Board Members Len Newsom and Patrick Brewer absent. One vacant position.

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Parks and Recreation Department:**

Angela Hanson, Forestry Program Manager, UFB Executive Liaison  
Robert Clawson, Staff Liaison  
Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Nature Based Programs  
Leah Haynie, Climate Protection Coordinator, Forestry Unit

**Planning and Development Review Department:**

Michael Embesi, City Arborist.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 5:49P.M.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of September 18, 2013.  
Motion made by Board Member Classen, Seconded by Board Member Fleming to approve the meeting minutes of September 18, 2013 with the following changes: Change start time to 5:40PM, and name Jessica Wilson. All Board Members present in favor. Board Members Newsom and Brewer absent. One vacant position.

**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.

- Doug Boyer, Friends of Boggy Creek, requesting consideration to leave snags in place.
- Sharon Blythe, Protect trees at City cemeteries and leave gravesite ornamentation.
- Michael Fossum, Requesting Texas Forest Service assist with tree inventory.
- Zoila Vega, Requesting Urban Forest Plan not be approved and add goals.

#### **D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Hiring of Riparian Management Coordinator. Work will include interdepartmental issues like Invasive Plant Monitoring (IPM) and Invasive Species Management Plan, in the works.
- Invasive Plant Monitoring Volunteer Recognition Event on 10/9 was a success.
- Texas Native Plant Week, October 20-26, [www.austintexas.gov/nativeplantweek](http://www.austintexas.gov/nativeplantweek)
- Bright Green Future School Grants, application deadline November 1, [www.austintexas.gov/brightgreenfuture](http://www.austintexas.gov/brightgreenfuture), these grants could be for a wide variety of sustainable projects on school campuses, including trees and other vegetation.
- Angela Hanson introduced Rob Grotty, Public Works Department, Forestry Program Manager, working on street tree maintenance, and Bradley Hammil, Texas A&M Forest Service, Central Texas Urban Forester.
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan delayed. Out in the next month or so.
- November 1-2, 2013, Dove Springs chosen as Austin Community Tree Program winner. (Michael Embesi). November 2, 2013, Tree Planting Day.
- Two-year AISD position posted. To be funded by Planning and Development Review Department.

#### **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. Verbal update given by Rob Grotty. Responding to trees in right of way and Capital Improvement projects in process. Working on dead trees on Brazos Street. Working with Austin Resource Recovery in Hyde Park regarding work in alleyways. Also discussed irrigation systems on Airport Boulevard per questions from Board Member Maceo.
- Update on items related to the Austin Urban Forest Plan. Discussed in Agenda Item F.1.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Report given for August and September.
- Overview of new standard methodology for tree risk assessment. No report given.

#### **F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS**

1. Discuss items related to Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.  
Board members and Executive Liaison returned from attending Environmental Board meeting. Urban Forest Plan recommendations discussed. Working group scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2013, to review comments given by Environmental Board. Not many updates since last meeting. No structural changes. Suggestion to add cover letter to the Plan.
2. Consider approval of a funding amount from the Urban Forest Grant Program for the transplant of a Live Oak Tree in Southwest Austin. The Urban Forest Grant Program identifies that Urban Forestry Board approval is required for all requests exceeding their categorical limit. Presenter: Michael Fossum, Austin Heritage Tree Foundation.  
Presentation given. Move to Agenda Item G.4 for action item.

#### **G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

1. Consider approval of items related to Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.  
No action taken.

2. Annual Election of Officers. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair.
  - Motion made by Board member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Classen to elect current Board Chair Kite as Board Chair for calendar year 2014. All members present in favor. Board Members Brewer and Newsom absent. One vacant board position.
  - Motion made by Board member Classen, Seconded by Board member Fleming to elect Board Member Maceo as Board Vice-Chair for calendar year 2014. All members present in favor. Board Members Brewer and Newsom absent. One vacant Board position.
3. Discuss and approve Urban Forestry Board meeting dates for calendar year 2014. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair.

Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Maceo to approve the meeting dates for 2014 as presented. (Will remain 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 5:30P.M.). All members present in favor. Board Members Brewer and Newsom absent. One vacant Board position.
4. Consider approval of a funding amount from the Urban Forest Grant Program for the transplant of a Live Oak Tree in Southwest Austin. The Urban Forest Grant Program identifies that Urban Forestry Board approval is required for all requests exceeding their categorical limit. Presenter: Michael Fossum, Austin Heritage Tree Foundation. Requesting \$57,000 in grant money.

Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Maceo. All members present in favor. Board Members Brewer and Newsom absent. One vacant Board position.

#### **H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing**

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Defer to November 2013 meeting.
2. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Defer to November 2013 meeting.
3. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Defer to November 2013 meeting.

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

- 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
- Update on Auditorium Shores Plans. Presenter: Marty Stump, Project Manager Supervisor, and, Terry Jungman, Project Coordinator, Park Planning, Design and Construction, PARD. November 20, 2013 meeting.
- Leaving Snags on Parkland – Angela Hanson, Urban Forester

#### **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 9:57P.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](mailto:angela.hanson@austintexas.gov) or by phone at 974-9551.