



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
Austin, Texas**

MEETING MINUTES

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**REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, Board Members Patrick Brewer, Nick Classen, Ryan Fleming, Len Newsom. 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, Ex-Officer Designee

Leah Haynie, Climate Protection Coordinator, Forestry Unit

Keith O'Herrin, Forestry Maintenance Supervisor.

Planning and Develop Review Department:

Michael Embesi, City Arborist

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 5:38PM.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of October 16, 2013.
Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Fleming to approve the meeting minutes of the Urban Forestry Board October 16, 2013. Board Members in favor: Fleming, Kite, Maceo and Newsom. Board members Brewer and Classen abstained. Motion passed with four yes, two abstained. One vacant position.
2. Approve the minutes of the Special Called Urban Forestry Board meeting of October 30, 2013.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to approve the meeting minutes of the Special Called October 30, 2013 meeting. All members present in favor. 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 – PARD Snags.

Zoila Vega, Austin Heritage Tree Foundation – Austin Urban Forest Plan.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watershed Protection Department in process of hiring land management and invasive species management plan implementation staff person.

Austin Community Tree Planting event – 900+ trees delivered to Dove Springs community.

Resolution on Soil Volume and Quality Standards passed council on consent. Additional support from Mayor Leffingwell and Council Member Morrison.

Tree planting event last weekend at Wooten Park.

E. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT – Angela Hanson, Urban Forester, including:

- Monthly briefing from Public Works Department. No report.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Handout presented at meeting. No questions.
- Leaving snags on Parkland. Standard practices of PARD Forestry Unit discussed. Boggy Creek incident – Special instructions not conveyed to contractor. PARD Forestry developing new signage.
- Update on items related to the Austin Urban Forest Plan. Standards of Care and ANSC 300.
- Current State of Municipal Forestry in Texas from an Austin Perspective. Presentation given by Keith O'Herrin. Graduate research project.
- Update on Treaty Oak – Grown outside of fence area and has had some unauthorized pruning at the fence edge. Fence extended outward. Board member Brewer suggested creating a task force.
- Nine new Forestry Unit positions to fill and additional Knuckle Boom truck.
- Barton Springs Pool tree court work to be starting this week.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Discuss and approve meeting location for calendar year 2014. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair. Item discussed.
2. Discuss items related to Urban Forestry Board Urban Forest Plan. Item discussed.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve meeting location for calendar year 2014. Presenter: Chris Kite, Board Chair. Motion made by Board Member Classen, Seconded by Board Vice-Chair Maceo to have the calendar year 2014 Urban Forestry Board meetings at Northwest Recreation Center. Board members Kite, Fleming, Brewer, Classen and Maceo in favor. Board member Newsom opposed. One vacant position. Vote passes five votes for, one opposed, one vacant.

2. Consider approval of items related to Urban Forestry Board Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan.
 - Motion made by Board member Brewer, Seconded by Board member Newsom to accept all changes brought by Urban Forestry Board working group, to date, with the exception of the Annual Performance Report Card. All Board members present in favor. One vacant position.
 - Motion made by Board member Fleming, seconded by Board member Brewer to implement changes agreed to by consensus on changes previously made by Board members Maceo and Classen. All members present in favor. One vacant position.
 - Motion made by Board member Brewer, Seconded by Board member Fleming to accept the letter from Urban Forestry Board, written by Urban Forestry Board Chair with word change suggested by Board member Classen. All members present in favor. One vacant position.
 - Motion made by Board member Classen, Seconded by Board Vice-Chair Maceo that the Report Card document, as presented by Board member Classen at the working group on Friday, November 15, be part of the Austin Urban Forest Plan. Board members Classen and Maceo in favor, Board members Fleming, Brewer, Kite and Newsom against. Motion fails. One vacant position.
 - Motion made by Board member Fleming, Seconded by Board member Newsom to include the plan with the framework for the first two columns and last column, leaving the other columns open, and have the Urban Forestry Board review performance indicators annually and update as appropriate. Board members Fleming, Newsom, Brewer and Kite in favor. Board members Classen and Maceo against. One vacant position.
 - Motion made by Board member Brewer, Seconded by Board member Fleming to accept the Urban Forest Plan in the most recent draft form with changes accepted tonight including technical edits to be made by staff (i.e., grammar and factual accuracy), and a more appropriate cover photo focusing on trees in the foreground and an urban setting in the background. Board members Kite, Brewer, Fleming and Newsom in favor. Board member Classen opposed. Board member Maceo abstained. Motion approved. One vacant position.
 - Board Chair Kite mentioned that the October 16 Environmental Board (ENVB) recommendations included a request to bring the Plan back before the ENVB after changes had been made. This could result in UFB participation at a December ENVB meeting. Urban Forestry staff agreed to develop a detailed written summary of these changes that could be sent on to the ENVB. Urban Forestry staff will send a draft of the Plan changes to UFB Board Chair Kite, who will then make possible edits before sending the summary on to Chair Maxwell of the ENVB.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Update on Auditorium Shores Plans. Presenter: Marty Stump, Project Manager Supervisor and Terry Jungman, Project Coordinator, Park Planning, Design and Construction, PARD. Presentation given with power point document on file.
2. Sunshine Camp Redevelopment Project. Presenter: Michele Rogerson Lynch, Director of Land Use and Entitlements, Metcalfe Wolff Stuart and Williams, LLP. Presentation given by Mindy Cooper, Landscape Architect with power point document on file.
3. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – September and October, 2013. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Deferred to December 18, 2013 meeting.
4. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – September and October 2013. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Deferred to December 18, 2013 meeting.

5. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – September and October 2013. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Deferred to December 18, 2013 meeting.
6. Downtown Tree Inventory Report. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist. Deferred to December 18, 2013 meeting.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Update on Treaty Oak and formation of task force. Date to be decided.

Soil Volume Resolution. March or April 2014. May 2014 presentation to City Council.

Update on Soil Volume resolution.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 9:00PM.

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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.