



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, December 18, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
Austin, Texas**

MEETING MINUTES

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**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2013**

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, Board Members Patrick Brewer, Ryan Fleming, Len Newsom, Nick Classen (arrived 5:57P.M., Keith Brown, newly appointed Board member (non-voting this meeting).

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

Angela Hanson, Forestry Program Manager, UFB Executive Liaison

Robert Clawson, UFB Staff Liaison

Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Nature Based Programs, Ex-Officio Designee

Planning and Development Review Department:

Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator.

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor.

A. CALL TO ORDER

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

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of November 20, 2013.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Fleming to approve the meeting minutes of the Urban Forestry Board November 20, 2013. Board Members voting in favor: Kite, Maceo, Brewer, Fleming and Newsom. Board Member Classen had not arrived. Motion passed with five members in favor, one member 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.

There were no citizens signed up for Citizen Communication.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Austin is a Cities of Service Grant Winner.

John Clement will replace Jessica Wilson as Ex-Officio Member.

The THIRST tree will be removed before the end of this year.

Angela Hanson announced the new UFB Board Member – Keith Brown.

Public Art Exhibit at ABIA – Ode to Heritage Trees.

Keith O'Herrin, Maintenance Supervisor, Forestry Unit, resigned.

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

- Monthly update on Public Works Department items. No report.
- Presentation of Texas State University GIS Analysis Project: Socioeconomic Impacts of Austin Tree Canopy. Presentation given.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Report handed out, reviewed and discussed.
- Urban Forestry Program 2013 Year in Review. Presentation given.
- Urban Forest Plan update. Update information given. Dates of public meetings need to be included.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Discuss possible formation of a task force to address needed maintenance on the Treaty Oak.
Task force working group would outline management goals of Treaty Oak and how to achieve goals. Members might include Don Gardner, Todd Watson, Texas Forest Service, additional subject matter experts, consulting arborists, consulting arborists, and/or ecologists. Board members on task force would be Brewer, Newsom, and Brown with Board Member Brewer as the Chair..
2. Discuss items related to the Austin Urban Forest Plan.
Item discussed.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider approval of forming a task force to address needed maintenance on the Treaty Oak.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board member Classen to form a task force to evaluate the Treaty Oak structurally and prescribe a care plan for Forestry consisting of board members, consulting arborists and other specialists as deemed by the Urban Forestry Board and City of Austin Urban Forester. Board members Kite, Maceo, Brewer, Classen, Fleming and Newsom in favor. Board member Brown non-voting this meeting. Motion passed.
2. Consider approval of items related to the Austin Urban Forest Plan.
Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to forward changes as discussed in memo to be sent to the Chair of the Environmental Board. Board members Kite, Maceo, Brewer, Classen, Fleming and Newsom in favor. Board member Brown non-voting this meeting. Motion passed.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – September, October, and November, 2013. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy.
Presentation given.

2. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update – September, October, and November, 2013. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Keith Mars gave the presentation.
3. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – September, October, and November, 2013. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
Keith Mars gave the presentation.
4. Downtown Tree Inventory Report. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist.
Keith Mars gave the presentation.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Soil Volume Resolution in March or April 2014, with possible May 2014 presentation to City Council.
- Update on Treaty Oak Task Force.
- January 15, 2014 Urban Forestry Board meeting to be held at City Hall to coincide with Environmental Board meeting.
- Written procedure on Snags.
- Planting For The Future Fund – Last three year expenditure report.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:40P.M.

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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.