



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, Board Members Patrick Brewer, Keith Brown, Nick Classen, Ryan Fleming, Len Newsom

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:

Michael Embesi, City Arborist

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M. with a quorum confirmed -- Board Vice-Chair Maceo and Board Member Classen arrived at approximately 5:55P.M.. Note: Board Member Newsom left the meeting at 7:10 P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board (UFB) meeting of January 15, 2014. Motion made by Board member Newsom, Seconded by Board Member Brewer to approve the meeting minutes of the UFB meeting of January 15, 2014. Approved by Board Members Brewer, Fleming, Kite and Newsom. Board Members Maceo and Classen not present at this time. Motion approved.

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 to speak.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The UFB Annual Internal Review Report is due by March 31, 2014. Board Chair Kite announced that he has begun gathering information from the 2013 approved meeting minutes to prepare the report. He will coordinate closely with UFB Executive Liaison Hanson prior to submission to the Office of the City Clerk. Board Chair Kite stated that a Boards and Commissions Transition Task Force has been formed, and that Board Vice-Chair Maceo is a member. Board Chair Kite will coordinate with Vice-Chair Maceo to respond to the ten questions that have been asked.

Angela Hanson – It's My Park Day is March 1, 2014.

Master Planning process on Cemetery trees, additional alternative for tree inventory. More info next month. Board Member Fleming – Society for Ecological Conference a few months back.

Michael Embesi – Texas Forest Service hosting a Forester Social on 3/26/14, "History of Austin's Urban Forest" at Zilker Clubhouse from 6-9 P.M.

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

- Monthly update -- Public Works Department. No report available.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Information presented.
- Planting For the Future Fund – 3-year report of species and planting sites. Information presented.
- Cost of water from water trucks, meter specific. Information presented.
- A briefing on the Urban Forest Plan to City Council is scheduled on February 27, 2014 at 10:30 A.M., and a vote to adopt the plan is scheduled for the City Council Agenda for March 6, 2014. Staff liaison will post UFB Special Called meeting notices for these two dates so that a quorum of UFB members may attend.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

There were no action item briefings.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

There were no discussion and actions items.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Overview of TreeFolks Programs – Presenter: Carly Blankenship, Program Manager and Acting Executive Director, TreeFolks. Carly Blankenship presented the information.
2. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – January 2014. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Ray Henning presented the information.
3. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update January 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Michael Embesi presented the information.
4. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – January 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. No information to report. Will be presented at the March 19, 2014 regularly scheduled meeting.
5. Update on formation of Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Board Member Brewer presented the information. Task force members met at the Treaty Oak and a variety of concerns were noted. Opportunity exists for outreach and education. Consensus was to create a five-year management plan,

and the initial effort would be an assessment of the more short-term needs for the tree. An assessment protocol is to be developed.

6. Soil Volume Resolution. Michael Embesi presented the information. This process was initiated by the UFB, sponsored by the Mayor's Office, and the directive through the City Manager to address the important issue of soil volume in our street scape and tree plantings in those areas. Six months was given to address this concern, and additional work is left to gather information.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Soil Volume Resolution – March 19, 2014 regular meeting. (Discussion and Action)

Public Works Department Tree Planting information. (Briefing)

Planning and Development Tree Planting program information. (Briefing) Margaret Volente

iTree Eco Assessment

Requiring PARD get permit from PARD Forestry where excavating a trench deeper than 4 inches (discussion and action item).

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:31P.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.