



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - 5:30 P.M.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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, Nature Based Programs Division, UFB Staff Liaison
Pat Fuller, Nature Based Programs Division, 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 5:36 P.M. with a quorum confirmed.

Board Member Brown arrived at 6:00 P.M.

Board Member Fleming left the meeting at 7:00 P.M., Board Member Classen left the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of February 19, 2014.
Motion made by Board Member Classen, Seconded by Board Member Brewer to approve the meeting minutes of the UFB meeting of February 19, 2014. Approved by Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Classen, Fleming and Newsom. (Board Member Brown not present). Motion passed.

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 was no citizen communication.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Urban Forestry Board Annual Internal Review Report due March 31, 2014. Board Chair Kite reviewing meeting minutes from last year to gather information.
- Habitat Stewards Training begins March 20, 2014.
- Interdepartmental representatives of the Grow Green team will be at the Zilker Garden Fest on March 29 and 30, 2014. A limited number of free tickets are available at City of Austin libraries.
- The Spring Grow Green Homeowner Training will be on the evening of April 23, 2014, and will focus on the soil-water connection and outdoor water conservation rebates.
- Registration for this summer's Grow Green Landscape Professional Training will open up soon. These full-day classes will be on Wednesdays from July 16 – August 13, 2014. \$75.00 for the entire series or \$20.00 for each individual day. Days of particular interest to UFB will be July 16, 2014, on Trees and Plants, and August 13, 2014 on Firewise Landscaping.
- Watershed Protection ready to provide UFB with a briefing next month on the work completing regarding Council Resolution 20130627-070, "Assessment of the Care and Maintenance of Public Trees."
- Director of TreeFolks has resigned.
- This Friday, Austin Energy hosting a tree talk -- "Protecting Texas Trees."
- Will be meeting next Tuesday with Walnut Creek Neighborhood Association to talk about tree regulations and caring for trees.
- Next Wednesday, Texas Forest Service, Zilker Club House, 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., History of Austin's Urban Forest.

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

- Monthly update -- Public Works Department. Reactionary requests for maintenance of trees. Pruning low limbs. Continuing work in alleyways in Hyde Park.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Presentation given.
- Preliminary iTree Eco Assessment Results – Presentation given.
- Urban Forestry Program working on request for proposals for internally implemented program to be able to obtain higher quality and more diverse species planting stock, and be able to have better quality control over what's planted on public property and the ability to use Planting for the Future dollars more broadly.
- Cemetery Master Planning process about to kick off with assistance and coordination with City Arborist Office. Have full tree inventory included as part of the planning process.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Discussion regarding operational modifications within PARD regarding the safeguard of critical root zones in response to recent trenching incidents. Presenter: Angela Hanson, Urban Forester. Recent trenching incidents discussed.
2. Discuss Urban Forest Grant proposal (Category: Disease or Pest Control) for an oak wilt suppression project on Rae Dell Avenue Presenter: Chris Dolan, City Arborists Office, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Consider action regarding operational modifications within PARD regarding the safeguard of critical root zones in response to recent trenching incidents. Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Brown to recommend to PARD that a review is made of critical, mechanical or physical excavation activities or other potentially tree damaging activities on public land, that a

supervisor, trained in critical root zones and tree protection, other trainer forester or qualified arborist, trained in critical root zones and tree protection is on site during the activity. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Brown, Fleming, and Newsom in favor. Board Member Classen opposed. Motion passed.

2. Consider approval of an Urban Forest Grant proposal (Category: Disease or Pest Control) for an oak wilt suppression project on Rae Dell Avenue Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to approve the grant with the addition of trenching along Arpdale Street to the west and reduction of the trench, to start trench at De Verne Street south and west along Arpdale Street not to exceed \$35,000. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo and Board members Brewer, Brown and Newsom in favor. Board Members Classes and Fleming not present. Motion passed.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Austin Community Trees tree planting program. Presenter: Margaret Valenti, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
2. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – February 2014. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Presentation given.
3. City Arborist Program Tree Presentation and Replenishment Monthly Update February 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
4. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – January and February, 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
5. Update on formation of Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Working to evaluate tree care recommendations.
6. Soil Volume Resolution. Presenter Board Member Brewer. Draft report due to City Council early May 2014. Information presented by Michael Embesi. Draft report due to City Council early May 2014. Meeting held with stakeholders.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Soil Volume Resolution – Draft report April 2014 Agenda, with possible May 2014 presentation to City Council.

Tree Planting Program Briefing – Public Works Department.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.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.