



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Austin Energy - Town Lake Center
721 Barton Springs Road
Assembly Room 130
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014**

Board Members in attendance:

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, Board Members Patrick Brewer, 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

Planning and Development Review Department:

Michael Embesi, City Arborist

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor

Watershed Protection Department:

John Clement, Environmental Program Coordinator

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 5:39 P.M.

Board member Brown absent.

Board member Classen arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of March 19, 2014.

Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Brewer to approve the meeting minutes of the UFB meeting of March 19, 2014. Approved by Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Fleming and Newsom. Board Member Brown absent. Board Member had not arrived. 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.

- Gerald Kinney – Cherrywood Neighborhood Association – Oak in public right of way removed.
- Michael Fossum – Urban Trails Plan – Don't approve UTMP yet. Post plan for public review.
- Zoila Vega – Urban Trails Plan – Don't approve plan yet to make more improvements and for public to read the plan.
- Sharon Blythe – Urban Trails Plan – Delay Urban Trails Master Plan until June for the final plan to be written.
- Sam Mitchell – Urban Trails Plan. Opposed to the plan.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Hanson introduced four new Forestry staff members – Leah Gibson, Jorge Espinosa, Alan Halter and Patty Dodson.

Texas Tree Planting competition May 16-17, New Braunfels.

Love Your Block Austin grant program. Small neighborhood projects.

Wildfire Preparedness workshop May 3, 2014. Wildfire Protection Plan. JJ Pickle Research Center.

State Arbor Day in Austin this year

John Clement announced that Jessica Wilson was on Central Texas Gardener. Available on YouTube.

Grow Green – Homeowners training coming up.

Board Member Maceo announced a letter explaining Urban Forest Grant program is underutilized is being published in neighborhood newsletters.

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

- Update -- Public Works Department. Rob Grotty, Urban Forestry Program Manager presented information.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Presentation given.
- Urban Tree Monitoring Protocols: Field Manual for the Minimum Data Set – National project looking at standardized method of monitoring trees.
- A.I.S.D. Forester has been hired.
- Wasson Avenue Heritage Tree Care presentation given.
- Tree Protection Training scheduled for 200+ staff engaged in excavations on parkland. Eight classes.
- Met with Austin Water Utility Executive Team to implement and make contacts with SPOCs about the Urban Forest Plan.
- Cemetery Tree Inventory to begin soon. Hoping to have data collected by June 2014.
- Reduced customer service response time from 50 days to 32 days. Goal is 15 days. Non-emergency.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Discuss Soil Volume Resolution. Presenter – Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member. Information presented.
2. Update on The Urban Forest Plan for Private Property and the role of the UFB in this process. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair. Presentation given. Draft to be presented at tonight's Environmental Boards and Commission meeting.

3. Discussion and consideration of Bicycle Master Plan Update and Urban Trails Master Plan. Presenter: Nathan Wilkes, Public Works Department. Presentation given.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Soil Volume Resolution presentation to City Council, May, 2014. Presenter: Patrick Brewer – UFB Board Member. Motion Made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to support the Street Tree and Soil Volume Resolution Summary and Recommendations along with any minor word edits and forward to City Council. Approved by six Board members present. Board Member Brown absent.
2. Update on The Urban Forest Plan for Private Property and the role of the UFB in this process. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair. No motion made.
3. Approval of Bicycle Master Plan and Urban Trails Master Plan. Presenter: Nathan Wilkes, and Nadia Barrera, Public Works Department. Motion made by Board Member Fleming, Seconded by Board Member Brewer that the UFB will submit a memorandum to City Council to state that while we support the efforts of connectivity, we have serious concerns about the environmental impact of urban trails to the urban forest. Our concerns include, but not are not limited to, the lack of clarity about oversight by appropriate foresters and biologists. In addition to the motion, a Working Group to be formed of Board Members Classen, Maceo and Fleming and to review the Plan when posted and report to the UFB at the May 21, 2014 meeting. Board members present in favor. Board Member Brown absent.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Possible Solutions for Improving the Growing Environment for Streetscape Trees, a University of Texas Civil Engineering student project. Presenter Kevin Nicoletta, University of Texas Civil Engineering student. Presentation given.
2. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – March 2014. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Presentation given.
3. City Arborist Program Tree Preservation and Replenishment Monthly Update March 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
4. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Monthly Update – March 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
5. Update on formation of Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Draft approach of protocols for assessing the condition of the tree and is being drafted.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

2013 Heritage Tree Report – May 21, 2014.

Food Forest Plan: Presenter: Meredith Gray, Conservation Program Coordinator, PARD.

Urban Trails Working Group Update

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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.