



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 20, 2014, - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2014**

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Chris Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, Board Members Brewer, Brown, Classen, Newsom. Board Member Fleming absent.

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department:

Angela Hanson, Forestry Program Manager, UFB Executive Liaison
Emily King, Forestry Unit, Environmental Program Coordinator

Planning and Development Review Department:

Michael Embesi, City Arborist.

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor.

Public Works Department:

Rob Grotty, Urban Forestry Program Manager

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Kite called the meeting to order at 5:45PM.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of June 18, 2014.
Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Brown to approve the meeting minutes of the UFB meeting of June 18, 2014. Approved by Board members Kite, Maceo, Brewer, Newsom, Classen, and Brown. Board Member Fleming 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 was no citizen communications.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Angela Hanson attended the Urban FIA program in Baltimore.
- BCIC service extension of Board members due. Form completed will extend to 6/15. If no form, term will expire 12/14.
- Texas Tree Conference 10/1-3/14.
- Austin Arbor Day 10/18/14 – Boggy Creek Greenbelt
- Statewide Arbor Day, 11/7/14, - State Capitol.
- Working with Forklift Danceworks. April, 2015.
- Emerald Ash Borer found in Arkansas. Affects Ash trees.
- Habitat Steward program 9/4-26/14, Thursday evenings and Saturdays. Vacancies available.
- Michael Embesi – Imagine Austin Speaker series
- Private Tree Plan on Council Agenda for 8/28/14.
- TreeFolks – New Executive Director.
- Land Development Code Citizen Advisory group meeting. There was stated concern that the Heritage Tree Ordinance might be dismantled as well as SOS. Later, it was also stated “everything’s on the table”.

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

- Austin Urban Forest Plan Implementation Monthly Update. Update given.
- Upcoming tree maintenance at city-operated cemeteries, along Roy and Ann Butler Hike and Bike Trail, and Zilker Park. Presentation given.
- Update -- Public Works Department. Update given.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Presentation given.
- Park Tree Permits – Presentation given.
- Tree Purchase Master Agreement – 5-year term.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Review Urban Forestry Board 2013 Annual Internal Review. Presenter: Chris Kite, UFB Board Chair. Chair Kite presented the information.
2. Possible formation of UFB working group to monitor the implementation of Austin’s Urban Forest Plan. Item discussed. Angela Hanson will provide updates at monthly UFB meetings as part of the Executive Liaison Report.
3. Review and possible recommendations on Boards and Commissions Transition Taskforce Report. Board Chair Kite presented background information.
4. Response to City Council Resolution 20130627-070 – Care, Maintenance, and Planting of Public Trees. Presenters, Angela Hanson, Emily King, and Mike Personett, Resolution Response Staff Working Group. Presentation given.
5. Review grant funding application process for private entities to provide maintenance services on prominent public trees. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair. Item Tabled.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Urban Forestry Board 2013 Annual Internal Review. Presenter: Chris Kite, UFB Board Chair. Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to approve the Urban Forestry Board 2013 Annual Internal Review as presented. Approved by all Board members present. Board member Fleming absent.
2. Approve formation of UFB working group to monitor the implementation of Austin's Urban Forest Plan. Action to be taken at future UFB meeting as needed.
3. Approve Recommendations on Boards and Commissions Transition Taskforce Report. Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Member Newsom to send information to council that the Urban Forestry Board approves consolidation of the Urban Forestry Board with the Environmental Board, with the caveat that expertise in urban forestry and arboriculture be considered when board members are appointed. Board members Brewer, Newsom, Kite and Maceo in favor. Board member Brown abstained. Board member Fleming and Classen absent.
4. Possible action regarding Response to City Council Resolution 20130627-070 – Care, Maintenance, and Planting of Public Trees. Presenters, Angela Hanson, Emily King, and Mike Personett, Resolution Response Staff Working Group. Motion made by Board member Brown, seconded by Board Member Maceo to support the additional annual funding of \$12.5 million recommended. The motion also included agreement with the recommendation to consolidate the code-mandated functions of the Urban Forester with the City Arborist Program within the Planning and Review Department. Approved by Board Members Kite, Maceo, Brown and Newsom. Board Member Brewer abstained. Board Member Fleming and Classen absent.
5. Approve grant funding application process for private entities to provide maintenance services on prominent public trees. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair. Item tabled.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – June and July 2014. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Presentation given.
2. City Arborist Program Tree Preservation and Replenishment Monthly Update June and July 2014. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
3. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Report – June and July 2014. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
4. Update from Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Presenter: Patrick Brewer. Update given.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Approve application process for private entities to provide maintenance services on prominent public trees. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Board Vice-Chair

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.

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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.