



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2015, - 5:30 p.m.
Northwest Recreation Center
2913 Northland
Austin, Texas**

Board Members in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department

Pat Fuller, Division Manager, Director Designee
Robert Clawson, Nature Based Programs Division
Manuel Flores, Parks Grounds Supervisor

Planning and Development Review

Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator, City Arborist Office
Lynn Tozser, Program Specialist, UFB Liaison

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 5:40 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board meeting of February 18, 2015.

Motion made by Board Member Brewer, Seconded by Board Vice-Chair Maceo to approve the meeting minutes of February 18, 2015. Approved by Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Classen and Newsom. Board Member Fleming abstained. Board Member Brown absent.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Planning and Development Review Department will be splitting functions into two individual departments: The Planning and Zoning Department and the Development Review Department. This change will allow for a more efficient distribution of workload and an enhanced focus on necessary process improvements.
- Changes to Landscape Ordinance - City staff held a Green Infrastructure Working Group public meeting on March 13, 2015 at Twin Oaks Library. Staff is exploring best practices and opportunities to improve the City landscape ordinance.

E. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT – Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator, City Arborist Office, including:

- Austin Urban Forest Plan Implementation Monthly Update. No questions on the information posted. Will be reviewed at the April 15, 2015 meeting.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

None

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

None

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – February, 2015. Presenter: Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Presentation Given.
2. City Arborist Program Tree Preservation and Replenishment Monthly Update February 2015. Presenter: Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
3. City Arborist Program Annual Heritage Tree Report – 2014. Presenter: Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
4. Update from Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member. Presentation given.
5. Public Works Department Urban Forestry Program Monthly Update. Presenter: Rob Grotty, Urban Forestry Program Manager. Presentation given.
6. Parks and Recreation Department Urban Forestry Program Monthly Update. Presenter: Manuel Flores, Parks Grounds Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department.
 - A. Removal of Protected Size Trees on Parkland. Presentation given.
7. Denial of Administrative Heritage Tree Removal at 507 West 23rd Street. Presenter: Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Action Item Briefing on Draft Cemetery Master Plan: Presenter: Kim McKnight, Project Coordinator, Park Planning and Design Unit, Parks and Recreation Department. April 2015.

Briefing on removal of Heritage Tree on Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt. Presenter: Lara Schuman, Acting Program Manager, Forestry Unit, Parks and Recreation Department. April 2015.

Briefing on Tree Folks/Grow Green List from Matt Hollon, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department.

Action Item Briefing of planting appropriate tree species on city land. Presenter: Rob Grotty, Urban Forestry Program Manager, Public Works.

Action Item Briefing on grant applicant request from Pease Park Conservancy. Presenter: Mr. Richard Craig. TBD.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

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For more information on the Urban Forestry Board, please contact Emily King at emily.king@austintexas.gov or by phone at 974-9548.