



URBAN FORESTRY BOARD MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, June 20, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Board Chair Patrick Brewer, Vice Chair Tom Hayes, Peggy Maceo, Nick Classen, April Rose, Christopher Kite

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department: Angela Hanson, Acting Urban Forestry Program Manager

Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager

Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist

Nathan Wilkes, Engineer Associate C, Public Works

Annick Beaudet, Project Manager, Public Works

Ray Henning-Austin Energy, Line Clearance Superintendent

Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department

- 1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of May 16, 2012.**
Minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's May 16, 2012 regular meeting, were approved on a motion by Board Member Kite, 2nd by Board Member Classen, and approved a 6-0 vote. Board Member Fleming was not in attendance.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Helen Fleming

Zoila Vega

Michael Fossum (donated his time to Ziola Vega)

Sharon Blythe

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Hanson made two announcements: (1) she asked the Board to be aware of posting times for the agenda, so that sufficient time will be made for reviewing and corrections to be made if necessary. She also reminded the board members that they will need a 2nd sponsor on items they would like to place on the agenda. (2) She stated that on July 14 at West Austin Park the Forestry department will be kicking off partnership with Austin Water Utility on their Water Conservation measures for the 2012 – 2013 planting season.

Board Member Rose made two announcements: (1) Nominations for the Tree of the Year Award is now open and you can vote for your favorite tree at www.treefolks.org and are due by July 31st. (2) Tree Folks has partnered with the Austin Urban Forestry program and will hold the Urban Forest Steward series of workshops. Registration can be done online at www.treefolks.org

Michael Embesi announced a meeting to be held regarding the proposed code for Wildlife

Interface will be at One Texas Center on Friday, June 22nd at 3 p.m.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Nathan Wilkes – Engineer Associate, and Annick Beaudet – Project Manager – Public Works briefed the board on the multi use trail on Barton Springs Rd.
- b. Michael Embesi, Ctiy Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department presented his monthly update.
- c. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Angela Hanson Acting, Urban Forestry Program Manager, presented briefings and updated the Board on the following items:

- a. The Cemetery Tree Watering Plan
- b. Wooldridge Square
- c. Pecan tree and dead tree removal notices at Zilker Park
- d. Results of the Urban Forest Opinion Poll

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Review and discuss the AIPP courtyard installed in 2010 by the live oak heritage tree at Brush Square, and the permitting process (including the inspection process throughout this project).

Board created a working group to draft a letter regarding the condition of the tree to be presented at the next Board Meeting and then send to AIPP, Mayor/Council, and City Manager.

- b. Review and discuss the status of the Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan, and make recommendation regarding future development of the plan.
A motion was made to accept this outline as the framework to use for the development of the plan by Board Member Classen, second by Board Member Kite, approved on a 6-0 vote.

- c. Discuss and make a recommendation regarding a draft resolution to City Council from the Urban Forestry Board to assure the City Manager upholds, without exception, the City Code of the City of Austin in any future development agreements. **(Copy of resolution addendum is attached)**

A motion was made to accept the draft resolution with amendments to the City Council regarding their future decisions about waving ordinances concerning trees by Board Member Maceo, second by Board Member Rose, approved on a 6-0 vote.

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Briefing on Airport Blvd (moving of sidewalk and planting of trees under power lines)
- b. Update on Strategic Goals Progress Report
- c. Update on Comprehensive Urban Forest Project

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewer adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:35 p.m.



The City of Austin Urban Forestry Board

WHEREAS, the Austin City Council is committed to conducting government business in an open and accessible manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has recognized the importance of its boards and commissions in playing a vital role in advising the City Council and facilitating communication between citizens, board members, and the City Council; and

WHEREAS, recent decisions regarding economic development agreements negotiated in the absence of public process have created concern on behalf of the citizen for a lack of respect for community values; and

WHEREAS, Austin's trees provide significant economic, environmental, and social contributions to the quality of life in Austin; and

WHEREAS, recent decisions have waived processes critical to ensuring that the values of this community, as evidenced in its codes and policies, are upheld;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE URBAN FORESTRY BOARD OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE CITY COUNCIL

Direct the City Manager to uphold, without exception, the City Code of the City of Austin in any future development agreement.

Passed unanimously by the Urban Forestry Board on June 20, 2012.

Patrick Brewer
Chair, Urban Forestry Board

Date

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