



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 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 (arrived at 5:59PM), Keith Brown, Nick Classen. Board Members Fleming and Newsom absent.

Staff in Attendance:

Parks and Recreation Department

Lara Schuman, Acting Program Manager, Forestry Unit
Robert Clawson, Nature Based Programs Division, UFB Staff Liaison
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Central Parks
Jason Maurer, Sales and Event Manager

Planning and Development Review Department:

Emily King, Acting Urban Forester
Michael Embesi, City Arborist
Lynn Tozser, Program Specialist

Austin Energy Department:

Ray Henning, Line Clearance Supervisor

Public Works Department:

Rob Grotty, Urban Forestry Program Manager

Watershed Protection Department:

John Clement, Environmental Program

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 January 28, 2015.
Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Brown to approve the meeting minutes of January 28, 2015 with the amendment to change Board Member Maceo's vote from opposed to abstained.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

David King, Agenda Items F4 and G4.

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.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Zilker Garden Fest is occurring on March 28th and 29th
- Grow Green landscape professional training will be occurring over the next several months, first class is February 24th
- Sign up for the Urban Forestry newsletter, the Treebune. A link can be found on our website: austinurbanforestry.org
- Two recent plantings, one at Zilker, 1000 seedlings planted, and one at Buttermilk Park where we planted 60 container trees.
- Two plantings coming up, one this Saturday, Feb. 21 at Northstar Greenbelt, and one on the 28th at Stoney Ridge Park.
- Lynn Tozser, PDRD, replacing Robert Clawson, PARD, and Urban Forestry Board Staff Liaison.

E. URBAN FORESTER EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT – Emily King, Acting Urban Forester, Planning, Development and Review Department, including:

- Austin Urban Forest Plan Implementation Monthly Update. Presentation given.
- Monthly Notification: Removal of protected size trees on parkland that constitute an imminent public safety risk. Presentation given.
- Summary of impacts to tree roots in Zilker Park from the U.S.A. Cycling Cyclo-Cross National Championships that occurred from January 7-12, 2015. Presentation given.
- Update on Draft Cemetery Master Plan. Presentation given.
- Update -- Public Works Department. Presentation given.
- Update on ForkLife DanceWorks at Govalle Park. Presentation given.

F. ACTION ITEM BRIEFINGS

1. Grant application requesting \$30,000.00 for vertical mulching on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Presenter: Darcy Nuffer, Watershed Protection Department. Presentation given.
2. Grant application requesting \$30,000.00 for invasive plant management on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Presenter: Darcy Nuffer, Watershed Protection Department. Presentation given.
3. Overview of UFB By-Laws and functions to prepare for possible special called meeting with Environmental Board related to transfer of UFB responsibilities to Environmental Commission. Presenter: Chris Kite, UFB Chair. Presentation given.
4. Update on Cyclo Cross event at Zilker Park. Presenters: Jason Maurer, Sales and Event Manager, Parks and Recreation Department, and Lara Schuman, Acting Program Manager, Forestry Unit, Parks and Recreation Department. Presentation given.

G. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and approval of grant application requesting \$30,000.00 for vertical mulching on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Presenter: Darcy Nuffer, Watershed Protection Department.
Motion made by Board Member Brown, Seconded by Board Member Brewer to approve the \$30,000 soil amending grant with the stipulation that it only be applied toward trees where it's determined that a full ½ CRZ soil amendment can be done to minimum of 6 inch depth, incorporating compost and top dressing of mulch. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Peggy Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, and Classen in favor. Board Members Fleming and Newsom absent. Motion carries.

2. Discussion and approval of grant application requesting \$30,000.00 for invasive plant management on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Presenter: Darcy Nuffer, Watershed Protection Department. Motion made by Board Member Brewer, seconded by Board Member Brown to approve the grant application requesting \$30,000 for invasive plant management on the Shoal Creek Restoration Project. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, and Board Members Brewer, Brown and Classen approved. Board Members Fleming and Newsom absent. Motion carries.
3. Discussion and possible action on UFB By-Laws and functions to prepare for possible special called meeting with Environmental Board related to transfer of UFB responsibilities to Environmental Commission. Presenter: Chris Kite, UFB Chair. Discussion concluded that Board Chair Kite will forward summary document to Environmental Board and see if possible follow-up meeting will occur. No further action taken at meeting.
4. Recommendations regarding Cyclo Cross event at Zilker Parks. Presenters: Peggy Maceo, UFB Vice-Chair and UFB Member Patrick Brewer. Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Brown that because of a recent event occurring at Zilker Park where a special events permit was required and during which tree damage occurred, the Urban Forestry Board recommends that the City Council direct the City Manager to make the following changes to the present process concerning special event permits for events occurring in Austin city parks: 1) As per City Code, require a tree permit for all protected and heritage trees impacted in the critical root zone; and, 2) Require a list of trees eight-inches and larger impacted in the CRZ. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo and Board Members, Brewer, Brown and Classen approved. Board Members Fleming and Newsom absent. Motion carries. Motion made by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Brown to approve the Urban Forestry Board Recommendations to the Zilker Park/Cyclo Cross Tree Remediation Contract as prepared and presented by Board Vice Chair Maceo. Motion amended by Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Seconded by Board Member Brown to include changes to recommendation numbers 7 and 8 as presented. Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo and Board Members Brown and Classen approved. Board Members Fleming and Newsom absent. Board Member Brewer recused. Motion carries.

H. BRIEFINGS – 10 Minute Limit For Each Briefing

1. Austin Energy Line Clearance Monthly Update – January, 2015. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy. Presentation given.
2. City Arborist Program Tree Preservation and Replenishment Monthly Update January 2015. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
3. City Arborist Program Heritage Tree Report – January 2015. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Presentation given.
4. Denial of Administrative Heritage Tree Removal at 507 West 53rd Street. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department. Item pulled. Place item on March 18, 2015 Agenda
5. Update from Treaty Oak Task Force Working Group. Presenter: Patrick Brewer, UFB Board Member. No presentation given.

6. Update on Tree Save Workshop. Presenter: Peggy Maceo, UFB Vice-Chair.
Presentation given.

I. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Action Item Briefing on Cemetery Master Plan: Presenter: Kim McKnight, Project Coordinator, Park Planning and Design Unit, Parks and Recreation Department. April Meeting.
- Action Item Briefing on grant applicant request from Pease Park Conservancy. Presenter: Mr. Richard Craig.
- Process for Special Events. Presenter: Jason Maurer, Sales and Event Manager, Parks and Recreation Department.
- Denial of Administrative Heritage Tree Removal at 507 West 23rd Street. Presenter: Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department.
- Urban Trails Update. Presenter: Nadia Barrera, Urban Trails Project Manager, Public Works Department.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Kite adjourned the meeting at 8:14PM.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications are provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 (four) days before the meeting date. Please call Lynn Tozser at the Planning and Development Review Department, at 512-974-2698, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

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



URBAN FORESTRY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20150218-G1

Date: February 18, 2015

Subject: Cyclo Cross Event at Zilker Park

Motioned By: Board Vice-Chair Maceo

Seconded By: Board Member Brown

Recommendation

Because of a recent event occurring at Zilker Park where a special events permit was required and during which tree damage occurred, the Urban Forestry Board recommends that the City Council direct the City Manager to make the following changes to the present process concerning special event permits for events occurring in Austin city parks.

- 1. As per City Code, require a tree permit for all protected and heritage trees impacted in the Critical Root Zone.*
- 2. Require a list of trees eight (8) inches and larger impacted in the 1/2 CRZ.*

Description of Recommendation to Council

Changes to present process concerning special event permits for events occurring in Austin City Parks.

Rationale:

Post Cyclo Cross Event at Zilker Park and damage to trees.

Vote

For: (5)

Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Board Members Brewer, Brown and Classen.

Against: (0)

Abstain: (0)

Absent: (2)

Board Members Fleming and Newsom

Attest



Peggy Maceo
Urban Forestry Board Vice-Chair



URBAN FORESTRY BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20150218-G1

Date: February 18, 2015

Subject: Urban Forestry Board Recommendations to Zilker/Cyclo Cross Tree Remediation Contract

Motioned By: Board Vice-Chair Maceo

Seconded By: Board Member Brown

Recommendation

1. All tree remediation work shall meet requirement for Public Tree Care Work. Work to be done per ANSI 300 specs, and submit a Public Tree Care Permit.
2. Work plan will be reviewed on site prior to starting the work and will be supervised by PARD Forestry. A single point of contact at Forestry will be provided.
3. Certified Arborist is required to have ISA certification and at least 5 years' experience in doing soil aerations with an air spade.
4. Certified Arborist and other contractors for tree care will have to be approved by the City Arborist and Forestry.
5. Soil aerate all of the actual compacted area, not just percentages on list. All trees that were affected shall be treated.
6. Some damaged trees are missing from map. Three additional Cedar Elms in rock garden area.
7. Trees aerated will be monitored for health periodically for 2-5 years after soil aerations, by City staff and added to tree monitor list for yearly inspections.
8. Cut completely severed roots cleanly. Roots not completely severed should be left.
9. Apply organic compost to aerated area completely to achieve total percentage of 20%-25% compost.
10. No Dillo Dirt for compost.
11. All compacted soil shall be aerated. 6-inch minimum, deeper if needed.
12. One drenching cycle immediately after the soil aeration.

Description of Recommendation to Council

Recommendations for Tree Remediation Contract work on trees damaged at Cyclo Cross Event at Zilker Park.

Rationale:

Additional recommendations to tree mitigation contract work.

Vote

For: (4) Board Chair Kite, Board Vice-Chair Maceo, Board Members Brown and Classen.

Against: (0)

Recused: (1) Board Member Brewer

Absent: (2) Board Members Fleming and Newsom

Attest:

Robert Clawson
Urban Forestry Board Staff Liaison