



## **CITY OF EL PASO TREE**

**MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008 @ 3:30 P.M.**

**2 CIVIC CENTER PLAZA, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR**

**CONFERENCE ROOM**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present**

Oscar Mestas, Acting Chair  
Raymond Bader  
Lois Balin  
Mark Benitez  
James Tolbert

#### **Members Absent**

Wynn Anderson  
David Morales  
Lewis Wright  
(John White)

#### **Staff Present**

Joel McKnight, Assistant Director  
Parks & Recreation Department  
Sam Calhoun, Superintendent  
Brent Pearson, Street Department  
Lucy Calderon, Recording Secretary

**Late Arrivals/Early Departures:** Raymond Bader arrived at 3:48 p.m.

1. Meeting called to order by Acting Chairman, Oscar Mestas at 3:43 p.m.
2. **Motion to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2008 made by Raymond Bader to approve; seconded by Oscar Mestas; all in favor; motion carried**
3. **Discussion and Information on Water Smart Trees for City's Storm Water Management:** Tree Board members would like to be included in the Storm Water Management Board. Brent Pearson stated that as of right now the board has not been solidified but he will find out the status and report to the Tree Board.
4. **Discussion and Action on Review of the Tree Board Ordinance:** Oscar Mestas stated that the main objective to revising the language was to simplify the membership for the committee and not have it limited. Resident or citizen of El Paso was omitted. Also, Tree Board is under the City Parks and Recreation technical staff and not the Street Department where it originated. **Motion made by James Tolbert to accept the Changes made to the Ordinance; seconded by Lois Balin; all in favor; motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Discussion and Information on Changes to the Tree Care Ordinance and Code:** None at this time
6. **Discussion and Information on Country Club Road Expansion:** Brent Pearson stated he, Oscar Mestas, and Susan Michaels who represents the engineering firm doing the work did an informal survey of the trees. The recommendation was to get a third party arborist, as per the Tree Care Ordinance but the recommendation was not taken. Majority of trees coming down are Chinese elms on public right of way. Oscar Mestas suggested a report with recommendations from the Tree Board can be drafted for this project.

7. **Discussion and Action on Modification to Tree and Plant List:** None given
8. **Open Comment Period:** Sam Calhoun asked if Tree Board meetings can be flexible or be kept on set date. Oscar Mestas stated that if there is no action item, a meeting is not required. Determination to be made by the Chair. Mark Benitez inquired about the objectives and goals for the Tree Board. As per Oscar Mestas, a lot of the goals have been met with the exception of Adopt a Median and the on going recertification of Tree City USA. Planning of Arbor Day for the fall coinciding with Memorial Tree Program is also an ongoing project. Raymond Bader suggests requesting a survey of the City's tree cover from City Council to guide the Storm Water Project programs.
9. **Meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.**