



## **TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*State of Texas Building, 401 E. Franklin, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Monday, January 9, 2006*

MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS:	MEMBERS ABSENT:
Charlotte Johnson, Chair - Parks Board	Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney	John White, Arborist
Oscar Mestas, Vice Chair - Texas Forest Service	Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney	Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect
Dr. Tammy Bendele, Horticultural Background	Brent Pearson, Arborist - Street Department	Raymond Bader, West Texas Urban Forestry Council
Eileen Karlsruher, At Large	Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary - Street Dept.	One Vacancy
Wynn Anderson, At Large		

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.
2. Assistant City Attorney Lupe Cuellar at this time asked the Chair if they could move Agenda Item No. 6 **Update and Discussion on the Tree Care Ordinance** to the forefront. There were no objections.

Lupe Cuellar stated that a week before Christmas they had done a last draft of the ordinance. The most significant change is they took the section dealing with nuisance, for having a tree hanging over the sidewalk into the street, due to there's another section in the City Code that addresses that. The date of the latest draft is 12/13/05, 5 pages to the document.

Discussed the hiring of a permanent Arborist; ordinance will be changed to read that the City Arborist will work with the Parks & Recreation Department and the Street Department. Other changes were discussed.

A copy of the manual was sent to Deputy City Manager Pat Aduato, and to the City Manager. Suggested the Board talk to Ms. Aduato before they discuss this with the City Manager, should there be any issues she is concerned about. Lupe Cuellar stated she will e-mail Ms. Aduato to let her know that it will go for determination to the DCC next week and to send her any concerns she may have.

Ms. Johnson asked that a change be made to the first page, on the last "whereas", where it states about ... promotion, preservation, education, and protection or replacement of the trees ... to add "economic growth" as a benefit somewhere in there. All in favor of the addition to the ordinance. Other changes were discussed regarding grammar, and clean-up of the wording.

Regarding property owner appeals, Ms. Cuellar will find out if the property owners will get notice that the DCC is going to hear their appeals, and that they get notice of their decision. The appeals are to be addressed to the Director of the City Street Department. If the DCC does not send notice will make sure that the Street Department will be sending them out.

Motion was made that we add to the ordinance that the property owner will be notified in writing of the decision by the DCC, and even if the property owner is at the DCC meeting, that a letter goes out to them notifying them in writing. Motion seconded by Eileen Karlsruher. Motion carried.

Mr. Oscar Mestas wanted to add that he received an e-mail from Pete Smith, Tree City Coordinator in College Station, that it looks like we meet their requirements.

The Chair thanked Lupe Cuellar for all her work and help in this ordinance.

**3. Approval of Minutes –**

Motion by Eileen Karlsruher, seconded by Oscar Mestas to approve the December 12, 2005 Minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.

**4. Update and Discussion on the Memorial Tree Program – Parks Department / Brent Pearson**

Mr. Pearson stated that there were no enrollees this past month. He did bring some brochures to distribute to the members.

Ms. Johnson stated that in the Minutes of the last meeting Mr. Barry Russell had asked for the dimensions of the memorial tree sculpture. The proposed Memorial Tree Sculpture is 15' tall, and 30' wide.

**5. Update and Discussion on the Approved Tree & Plant List – Brent Pearson**

There were no applications for modification.

Ms. Johnson asked if the landscapers and irrigation people were accessing this list. Mr. Pearson stated he has received some calls, some from out of town. Ms. Karlsruher stated that the list was adopted for City use.

**6. Update & Discussion on Amending Tree Board Ordinance**

Discussion on the changes:

- Increase term limit from two years to four years. Requires City Council review.
- Remove Texas Forest Service representative from the voting portion of the vote and change to ex-officio. (Representative vote for the Texas Forest Service)
- Draw lots for staggered terms

Josette to give Daryl Cole a draft of the new revised ordinance to be placed on the agenda.

Motion for City Attorney to make amendments to the Tree Board ordinance. Motion seconded by Oscar Mestas. Motion carried.

**7. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD - N/A**

Motion by Wynn Anderson and seconded by Oscar Mestas to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. **Next meeting February 13, 2006, at 3:30 p.m.**

  
Approved: Charlotte Johnson, Chairman  
Date: 2-13-06

*Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary*

