



## **TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

*State of Texas Building, 401 E. Franklin, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Monday, October 10, 2005*

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

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**2. Approval of Minutes –**

Dr. Tammy Bendele asked that we make a correction to the Minutes on Item No. 7, Open Comments Period, where it states “they have obtained a grant from the NMSU”, change to “they have obtained a grant from TFS”.

Motion by Eileen Karlsruher, seconded by Lewis Wright to approve the October 10, 2005 Minutes with the correction. All in favor.

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

There were no other honorees since the last meeting.

**4. Update and Discussion on Arbor Day Celebration / Memorial Tree Dedication – Dr. Tammy Bendele**

Brent Pearson stated they are getting ready to plant for the Arbor Day Celebration at the end of the month at Album Park (October 29). They have three trees which are designated for the west side and the majority of donations were the \$50 seedlings. Invitations are ready to go out to invitees, and letters to people who donated. Dr. Bendele called (Representative) Presi Ortega’s office to find out if he will be attending, and also left a message at the Mayor’s office.

Dr. Bendele stated that reference the Forestry Council and the sculpture, they are meeting with (Rep.) Beto O’Rourke and Rita Gomez on Thursday afternoon to see if he will spearhead that project.

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

There were no applications for modification.

6. Update and Discussion on the Tree Care Ordinance – Oscar Mestas

Brent Pearson stated that they went to DCC two times, the first time to introduce the ordinance and they had very few comments. He and Lupe Cuellar went back the next week and there were a few comments, the main one being who is going to enforce the ordinance, and the second comment, "why are we doing this?". Brent Pearson replied that it was for the health and preservation of the trees in the City, and also for Tree City USA certification. They also wanted the specifications manual before they had any further comments. They had concerns with the double frontage lots, and Lupe Cuellar amended the definition of public property to include property owned / controlled by the City and that the City has the responsibility to maintain, which should take care of their concerns.

Mr. Barry Russell, Parks & Recreation, thinks the City should be able to give enforcement to the Arborist, to give that person the "by-law officer" status where they can write citations. Ms. Cuellar replied that when you're talking about enforcing the ordinance, it's more of an internal thing, and the departments will enforce it among themselves, and have the Arborist to be the final determining factor to actually issue a citation. It should be more of a reporting process procedure.

Eileen Karlsruher asked if this will pass Council by the end of November. Per Oscar Mestas, after the applications have been reviewed, even if we do get it passed by November it is possible that there will be a one-year waiting period.

Charlotte Johnson asked to go over the timeline, and Oscar Mestas stated that the ordinance is almost complete. Charlotte Johnson also asked if it goes to LRC after the DCC, and Lupe Cuellar stated it will be up to the Board if you want to take it to LRC.

Brent and Oscar will continue working on it.

7. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

There were no open comments.

8. Motion by Eileen Karlsruher and seconded by Wynn Anderson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Next meeting November 14, 2005, 3:30 p.m.

  
Approved: Charlotte Johnson, Chairman  
Date: Dec 12, 2005

*Rosemary G. Bonnego, Secretary*

