

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Garden Club Center - 3105 Grant

Monday, February 13, 2006

3:30 p.m.

The Tree Board met at the above place and date.

Meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. Board Chair Ms. Charlotte Johnson was present and presiding and the following Board Members were present:

Oscar Mestas, Vice Chair, Texas Forest Service
Dr. Tammy Bendele, Horticultural Background
Dr. Raymond Bader, West Texas Urban Forestry Council
John White, Arborist
Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect

Others Present:

Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney
Brent Pearson, Arborist – Street Department
Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary – Street Department

Absent:

Eileen Karlsruher, At Large
Wynn Anderson, At Large
One Vacancy

Item 5: Chair Johnson stated she had a request to move Item #5, Update and Discussion on Amending the Tree Board Ordinance, to the top of the Agenda. All present were in favor.

AYES: Ms. Johnson, Mr. Mestas, Dr. Bendele, Dr. Bader, Mr. White, Mr. Wright

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Ms. Karlsruher, Mr. Anderson

The following changes to the Agenda were discussed:

1. Extend the term from two to four-year terms;
2. Change the Texas Forest Service person from Board member to ex-officio member;
3. Increase the at-large members from three to four, and
4. Change the responsible department from Street Department to Parks Department.

Discussed on the terms:

1. Mayor's appointee's term will expire in even number of years.
2. Appointees from Districts 1, 3, 6, 7 - terms will expire in even numbered years.
3. Appointees from Districts 2, 4, 5 & 8 - terms will expire in odd numbered years.
4. Terms of office for each appointee to commence on February 28, and shall terminate on February 27, at the conclusion of their respective terms.

Motion made by Mr. Mestas, seconded by Mr. White, and unanimously carried to change the administration of the duties from Street Department to Parks & Recreation Department.

AYES: Ms. Johnson, Dr. Bendele, Dr. Bader, Mr. White, Mr. Wright

NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Ms. Karlsruher; Mr. Anderson

Tree Board Minutes 2/13/06 (cont'd.)

Motion made by Mr. Mestas, seconded by Mr. Wright, and unanimously carried to include the City Arborist as a representative or ex-officio member to the Tree Board to be included in the ordinance.

AYES: Ms. Johnson, Dr. Bendele, Dr. Bader, Mr. White, Mr. Wright
NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Ms. Karlsruher; Mr. Anderson

Ms. Flores explained that the ordinance will first be introduced, and then City Council will vote on it two weeks later. There were no further comments. At this time Ms. Flores left the meeting.

Item No. 2: Motion was made by Dr. Bendele, seconded by Dr. Bader and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes for the January 9, 2006 meeting.

AYES: Ms. Johnson, Dr. Bendele, Dr. Bader, Mr. White, Mr. Wright
NOT PRESENT TO VOTE: Ms. Karlsruher; Mr. Anderson

Item No. 3: Mr. Pearson stated that there was one new addition to the Memorial Tree Program. There was no update on the Memorial Tree sculpture.

Item No. 4: Mr. Pearson stated that there were no applications for modifications to the Approved Tree & Plant List.

Item No. 6: Discussion on the Tree Care Ordinance. The specifications manual is being changed to "Best Management Practices".

The revision for the Tree Care Ordinance should be ready by the next Tree Board meeting.

Item No. 7: Mr. Mestas announced that the National Arbor Day Foundation Poster Contest for the State of Texas winner is from El Paso. Alejandra Flores, a student at Jane Hambric Elementary School in the Socorro School District. She will be receiving a \$500 savings bond from the state; a tree will be planted at the school; recognition on the state website, etc. Mr. Mestas suggested that the Arbor Day Celebration be held at Chester Jordan Park, next door to the school if the Board does not object, and they can also hold the poster ceremony at that time.

Announcement by Dr. Bader that this year the Sun Country Landscape Conference will be March 31 at the Marriott. Theme for this year is "Redefining Zeriscape".

Motion made by Dr. Bader, seconded by Mr. Mestas, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. Next meeting March February 13, 2006, at 3:30 p.m.

Approved as to form:


Department Head/Board Secretary