

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
State of Texas Building, 401 E. Franklin, 5th Floor
Monday, February 14, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT:	OTHERS:	ABSENT:
Charlotte Johnson, Chair - Parks Board Peter Beste, At Large Lewis Wright, Landscape Architect John White, Arborist Wynn Anderson, At Large	Dee Wardy, Chairman, Green Sweep Committee Brent Pearson, Arborist - Street Department Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney Edward Nuñez, Admin. Assistant, - Street Dept.	Oscar Mestas, Vice Chair - Texas Forest Service Dr. Tammy Bendele, Horticultural Background Eileen Karlsruher, At Large One Vacancy

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. It was noted by the Chair that this is the first year anniversary of the Tree Board.

2. Approval of Minutes –

Motion by Lewis Wright to approve the Minutes to the meeting of January 10, 2005; seconded by Mr. Wynn Anderson. Motion carried.

3. New Appointments and Service Commendations – Charlotte Johnson

Ms. Johnson stated that before getting to the new appointments that she would like to thank Mr. Peter Beste for his service and wished him great success with his endeavors with his cactus salvage and preservation.

Eileen Karlsruher's reappointment by Representative Lozano is on the City Council Agenda for tomorrow. Georgina Maldonado, who was appointed by Representative Cushing did not wish to be reappointed. Representative Cushing verbally stated that he may be appointing Dr. Ray Bader to the Board as her replacement, but it is not on the Agenda for tomorrow. Mr. John White has been reappointed by Representative Escobar. Representative Cook is still pending an appointment to replace Peter Beste to the Board.

4. Memorial Tree – Parks Department / Brent Pearson

We have seventeen memorial trees for a total of \$1,975, three more trees than at the last meeting. A list of all the donations was distributed to everyone before the meeting.

The Chair at this time introduced Mrs. Dee Wardy, Chair of the Green Sweep Committee, who signed up to speak about a proposal for a physical memorial to list the donors and/or the recipients of memorial trees. Discussion followed as to whose name should be on the memorial, location, and funding. Possible locations are the Civic Center area, Cleveland Square, Library, etc. Rita Gomez, who will be at the next Green Sweep meeting, has been asked to head the promotional end. They would like to have a sample of the physical memorial done for the Arbor Day Celebration. The next meeting of the Green Sweep Committee is March 1, 2005 at 10:30 a.m., City Hall. Mrs. Wardy stated she welcomed any assistance, suggestions, or help and support from the Board.

5. Update and Discussion on Adopt-a-Median Program – Wynn Anderson

Mr. Anderson stated the draft was reviewed and that it is clear that there were some fundamental issues that were not being addressed, the largest being control. He would like to make it possible for groups to donate cash or in-kind services, and let the City Street Department handle everything. Brent Pearson stated that the Street Department is picking up the cost of water usage now. Wynn Anderson stated that he is looking to change the draft from what was sent out before, and that a motion is not necessary to do this. The Chair stated that we need an Adopt-a-Median Program that City Council may consider. Discussion followed as to whether it should be proposed as a resolution or an ordinance.

Wynn Anderson does not think it will be ready to be sent to Council by May as per the timeline. It was agreed to adjust the timeline to July.

6. Update and Discussion on Approved Tree and Plant List – Brent Pearson

There were no Applications for Modifications submitted.

7. Update and Discussion on Tree Care Ordinance – Oscar Mestas

Mr. Mestas was not able to attend the meeting. He let Ms. Johnson know that he still has some work to do and is close to meeting with the City Attorney to fine tune the ordinance.

8. Update and Discussion on Community Forestry Work Plan – Dr. Tammy Bendele

Dr. Bendele was not present at the meeting. The Chair stated that several Board members had met with Ms. Joyce Wilson, City Manager, on January 24 to present the Community Forestry Work Plan to her. The draft copy of the plan was actually a basic plan that required budget considerations from the Street or Parks departments, and they wanted to point those things out to Ms. Wilson and ask her to work with the City department heads and the Board to fine tune, as the Board is not in the position to fill in the dollar amounts. Ms. Wilson has it in her possession and will meet with the department heads. Ms. Wilson suggested we include it in the annual report to Mayor and Council.

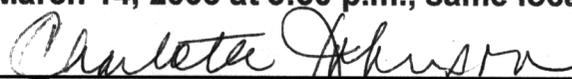
Although it is not a requirement to have a Community Forestry Work Plan to be certified Tree City USA, it will give the Board the vehicle to gauge how much money per capita is spent in the City on our green infrastructure. Tree City USA requires that we prove to them that we spend at least \$2 per capita, which Brent Pearson feels we are already doing although we do not have documentation or a way to track it. The Chair is in the process of writing the annual report and will e-Mail a draft copy to the Board members for feedback, then it should be ready by the next meeting to present to Mayor and Council.

Mr. Anderson asked if she had brought up the subject of the landscape ordinance with Ms. Joyce Wilson. She replied yes, although they did not talk about it much. Ms. Johnson stated Ms. Wilson had a document which included language referring to an Adopt-a-Median Program. We were told that if the Landscape Ordinance went forward and it included language that referred to Adopt-a-Median, that we did not need to submit that as a resolution or an ordinance, that it would automatically become policy. Our question to Joyce Wilson was what is the status of the Landscape Ordinance and is it going anywhere in the near future? At this time Ms. Johnson apologized for not introducing Ms. Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney, who will be representing the Tree Board. She then asked Ms. Cuellar if she had any insight on this Ordinance, as Ms. Wilson had commented to the Chair that possibly in the near future it would be before council. Ms. Cuellar does not know but she will check on the status. Ms. Johnson asked that she get us a timeline of when it will be before Council, because if it is still a year from now, we may want to move forward with Adopt-a-Median.

9. OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:

10. Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next general meeting will be Monday, March 14, 2005 at 3:30 p.m., same location.


Approved: Charlotte Johnson, Chairman

Date: 3-14-05

Rosemary G. Borrego, Secretary