

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
WEDNESDAY MARCH 10, 2010
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
4:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Chaplin
Marcy Brown-Marsden
Scott Wilson
Sara Beckelman

IPAR STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Michalski
Becky Dietz
Mike Griffith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karen Harmon
Randy Boatright
Jim Scrivner

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes

Scott Wilson made a motion to approve minutes. Helen Chaplin 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – Action Items

A. At-large member nominations

Tree board members solicited nominations for the two at-large positions. Two applications were received and reviewed with board members. The board members discussed the applications from Gareth Harrier and Lorraine Taylor.

Chris Michalski made very positive comments regarding the two applicants. Sara Beckelman made a motion to accept the two applicants. Scott Wilson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of future meeting dates

Chair, Marcy Brown-Marsden had tentatively set dates for future Tree Board meetings for May 12, July 14 and September 8th at 4 p.m. Sara Beckelman made a motion to accept the meeting dates as suggested. Scott Wilson 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Information Items

A. Park Manager's Report

Mike Griffith mentioned the following items:

- Tree City USA status was approved by the Texas Forest Service and sent forward to the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Boy Scout partnership honoring their 100th anniversary, will plant 100 trees at Northwest Park.
- Tree assessment RFP is being prepared to go out by the end of April
- Over 900 trees damaged from recent snow storm
- Oak Wilt season runs from Feb. 1st through June 1st.

- Training classes were held with City Engineers on “Managing Trees during Construction”.

Tree board members requested a copy of the ISA Best Management Practices. Mike advised that he would purchase a copy for each of them.

Mike Griffith handed out a copy of the City Ordinance in regards to Tree Preservation for board members to review and be ready for discussion at the next meeting.

B. Chairman’s Report

Marcy Brown-Marsden mentioned finding resources for work on trees in the city and place the information on the website.

Marcy also mentioned that Arbor Day planning was in the planning process and would need a subcommittee formed.

C. Director’s Report

Chris Michalski briefly spoke on the Parks Department Budget. The new budget consists of no new personnel, no new programs without the means to fund the program, stating the budget is extremely tight. The Maintenance / Corridor team is short 4 positions within their area.

Chris recognized Mike Griffith for all of his hard work in processing a monthly report for Tree Board members as well as for his outstanding leadership in heading up the Urban Forestry initiative.

Item 4 – Future agenda items/Open discussion

A. Ordinance Review

Mike Griffith mentioned that the board would not review the tree ordinance until the two new members have had a chance to review them. The board will have more lengthy discussion on the ordinance at the May meeting.

B. Tree Board website

Marcy Brown-Marsden mentioned that the board could create a website with information on trees and give them resources to access other websites on tree issues. The website would be set up on the City’s site under Parks and Recreation.

C. Citizen Tree issues

Chris Michalski informed the board that the board’s position should be to supply residents with resources to have their tree issues and concerns resolved. The Parks Department does not provide for personal trees.

D. Educational Publication on Trees

The board members all agreed that a publication should be created on tree education.

Item 5 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.