

**MINUTES
TREE BOARD
WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2010
FIRST FLOOR COUNCIL ROOM
4:00 P.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helen Chaplin
Marcy Brown-Marsden
Scott Wilson
Sara Beckelman
Jim Scrivner
Gareth Harrier
Lorraine Taylor

IPAR STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Michalski
Becky Dietz
Mike Griffith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Karen Harmon
Randy Boatright

Item 1 – Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Marcy Brown-Marsden at 4:06 p.m.

Item 2 – Approval of Minutes

Scott Wilson made a motion to approve minutes. Jim Scrivner 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – New Board Member Introductions

Marcy Brown-Marsden had the two new board members introduce themselves and also to give a little background on themselves.

- Lorraine Taylor – Currently on the board of the Irving Heritage Society and has just finished a six-year term on the Irving Arts Board serving as chair for the last two years of her term. Lorraine is President of the Heritage District Neighborhood Association and organized the tree survey that was done in the neighborhood last March.
- Gareth Harrier – Mr. Harrier is an ISA Certified Arborist with the Bartlett Tree Expert Company. He has been with Bartlett since graduating from Texas A & M University with a Masters in arboriculture and urban forestry in December 2004. In addition to his ISA certification and TDA license, he is also a certified Texas Oak Wilt Specialist.

Item 4 – Boy Scout Recognition

Mike Griffith introduced Parks and Recreation supervisor George Gillespie who oversees the Northern District of the city. George worked with Boy Scouts Arvind Sivakumar and Sudhish Srikanth in planting 99 trees at Northwest Park and 48 trees at Thomas Jefferson Park. This was a partnership with the Boy Scouts in honor of the Boy Scouts 100 year celebration. Arvind and Sudhish both collected donations to help purchase these trees.

Item 5 – Information Items

A. Director’s Report

Chris Michalski advised the board that the Departmental budget was very tight not only for the Parks Division but also for the Recreation Division. Chris stated that he is advising the board of this because it is relevant to what the board is looking to accomplish. Chris mentioned that Mike Griffith had been very creative in procuring over 100 trees for \$70 each that were planted in partnership with the Boy Scouts at Northwest and Thomas Jefferson Parks. Chris also mentioned that the Parks Department is working on a grant from the Texas Forestry Service that would result in a reimbursement of \$10,000 after the city fronts \$20,000. Chris answered questions from board members.

B. Park Manager’s Report

Mike Griffith mentioned the partnership with the Boy Scouts and contacted Fannin Tree Farm to see what he could procure in honor of the Boy Scouts 100 year celebration. Mike purchased 3 inch diameter trees for \$70 each. Due to the weight of the trees being over 500 pounds each, the Parks Department staff helped in digging holes with a 30 inch auger bit.

Mike also mentioned saving 114 trees from the bulldozers at the University of Dallas. These trees were temporarily placed at Fritz Park, mulched, wet and kept in the shade until they are able to be permanently planted elsewhere.

Mike advised the board that the Tree City USA announcement will be made at the May 27th City Council Meeting. Mike mentioned that Oak Wilt season continues until June 1st. Mike Griffith answered questions from board members.

C. Chairman’s Report

Marcy Brown-Marsden acknowledged Mike Griffith and staff for the help in relocating the trees from the UD site.

Item 6 – Discussion:

A. Ordinance Review

Marcy Brown-Marsden mentioned that now the Tree Board is fully formed, the ordinances will now be discussed. Marcy’s idea is to touch on the subject today and then go into more detailed discussion at the July 14th meeting.

Item 7 – Future Agenda Items

Review of ordinance on July 14th and Arbor Day discussion at September 8th meeting.

Item 8 – Tree Board Photo

Derrick Thompson from the Corporate Communications Department took a photo of the Tree Board members and staff holding the Tree City USA flag.

Item 5 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

