

TREE BOARD MEETING
January 09, 2023; 4:30 PM
Woodcreek, Texas

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ramos called the meeting to order at 4:39PM after a delay due to a technical issue.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT

Chairperson Iris Ramos
Vice-Chairperson Monica Rasco
Board Member Terri Burney-Bisett
Board Member Jacob McElroy
Board Member Dorothy Tasian
Council Liaison Brent H. Pulley

ABSENT

Alt. Board Member Cindy Jones
Alt. Board Member Nan Simpson

CITY STAFF PRESENT

City Manager Kevin Rule
Office Admin. Maureen Mele

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A Public Comment was made by Pat Rawlings, Woodcreek Parks and Recreation Board Chair, about removal of some small trees at Creekside Park to facilitate parking.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Tree Board Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2022.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Rasco to approve the Tree Board Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2022 (20:53). The motion was seconded by Member Burney-Bisett.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Yea: Member Tasian, Member McElroy, Member Burney-Bisett, Vice-Chair Rasco, Chairperson Ramos

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS AND COUNCIL LIAISON

Council Liaison Pulley reported on the status of the Tree City USA application which was accepted at the regional level but awaiting approval at the state and national level. He also updated the Board that the Parks and Recreation Board had been awarded the POSAC grant from Hays County.

City Manager Rule updated the Tree Board on:

- i) the removal of 1-2 dead trees at the rear of Creekside Park and that further tree removal will be addressed in the summer after July 1st,
- ii) the tree trimming application process will be changed on Feb. 1st to address trimming and removing trees separately along with several other changes,
- iii) the multitude of educational materials online particularly at the Tree City USA website and that some of the materials have been purchased and are available at City Hall, and
- iv) that additional awards related to Tree City USA are possible, i.e. Growth Award.

City Secretary Mac Kenzie did not report.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No reports were offered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

2. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on the Request For Proposal (RFP) for City Arborist

After discussion, the Tree Board would like more information from the City Council on the budget for the City Arborist but the RFP process will continue without this budget information.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Rasco that the RFP be given to Council with questions 1 - 8 as shown in the packet and an additional question 9 be added that in-person interviews be required which Tree Board members would be able to attend (1:12). The motion was seconded by Member Tasian.

A roll call vote was held.

Voting Yea: Member Burney-Bisett, Member McElroy, Vice-Chair Rasco, Chairperson Ramos, Member Tasian

The motion passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Discuss Obtaining an Inventory of Current Oak Wilt Cases in Woodcreek and Create a Map of Diseased Trees in the City

There was a discussion of oak wilt cases within the City of Woodcreek and Mayor Rasco will contact Karl Flocke, a Woodland Ecologist of the Texas A&M Forest Service, to obtain his map of the areas in Woodcreek where oak wilt has been detected.

The Tree Board recommended that treatment for oak wilt be applied to the city trees at the triangle area, which is at the intersection of Woodcreek Drive and Brookhollow Drive. Council Liaison Pulley will bring this request to the next Council meeting.

4. Initiate Discussion on Fundraising to Strengthen the City Tree Care Budget for Homeowner Support and Search for Grant Possibilities

A discussion of ways to increase the budget were considered. It was explained by City Manager Rule that the Tree Ordinance (Ordinance 21-297 Section 91.06(A)) says that the Tree Fund can only be used on city land or city-controlled rights-of-way.

It was noted that "urban forest grants" may be possible and Member McElroy volunteered to conduct research on grant possibilities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Ramos would like the next agenda to contain an item reporting on the grant research as well as an agenda item on information obtained from Karl Flocke along with an agenda item to update oak wilt treatment in the triangle area.

ADJOURN

Chairperson Ramos adjourned the meeting at 6:05PM.

Iris Ramos, Chairperson

Suzanne Mac Kenzie, City Secretary