

TREE BOARD MEETING
August 08, 2022; 4:30 PM
Woodcreek, Texas

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jones called the meeting to order at 4:31PM.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

PRESENT

Chairperson Cindy Jones
Vice-Chair Monica Rasco
Board Member Jacob McElroy
Board Member Iris Ramos
Board Member Dorothy Tasian
Alt. Board Member Nan Simpson
Alt. Board Member Terri Burney-Bisett
Council Liaison Brent H. Pulley

STAFF PRESENT

Administrative Assistant Maureen Mele

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A public comment was offered by Pat Haggerton.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Tree Board Meeting Minutes from July 11, 2022

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Rasco to approve the meeting minutes from July 11, 2022. The motion was seconded by Member Tasian.

A roll call vote was held.

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

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

REGULAR AGENDA

2. Swearing in of Terri Burney-Bisett as Alternate Member

Ms. Terri Burney-Bisett was sworn in as an Alternate Member of the Tree Board by Mayor Rasco.

3. Discussion of Tree City USA Requirements

The Tree City USA requirements were discussed and the Arbor Day event scheduled for Oct. 4th at Camp Young Judaea was confirmed. The application to be a "Tree City USA" does not open until Sept. 1st of this year.

4. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Recommendation to City Council on Hiring a Part-time Certified Arborist and Amending an Ordinance to Reflect This Position

A motion was made by Member Ramos that the City Council consider these suggestions for the part-time arborist to be hired :

- i) the person must be certified through TCIA and be an oak wilt specialist,
- ii) preference is to hire someone local,
- iii) preference is for one company or one person to maintain consistency,
- iv) individual do an ongoing review of the trees.

The motion was seconded by Chairperson Jones.

After discussion, a roll call vote was held.

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

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

5. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Recommendation to City Council on Creating a City Map of Oak Wilt Hot Zones

A motion was made by Chairperson Jones to recommend to City Council to update the oak wilt hot zone map using Karl Flocke's old oak wilt map as a baseline and ask an arborist to update from there.

The motion was seconded by Member Tasian.

A roll call vote was held.

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

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

6. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Recommendation to City Council on Incentives for the Prevention of Oak Wilt

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Rasco to recommend to the City Council to:

- i) continue with education effort,
- ii) use bullet points in educational materials to compare the cost of the treatment of oak wilt vs. cost of losing tree, and
- iii) consider tree-of-the-year contest.

The motion was seconded by Member Tasian.

A roll call vote was held.

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

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

7. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Recommendation to City Council on Mailing Residents an Oak Wilt Brochure from the Texas A&M Forest Service

This agenda item was not addressed as the City Council had already decided to mail the oak wilt brochure to all residents.

8. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Creating an Action Plan Regarding Oak Wilt with Recommendations for the City Council

A motion was made by Member McElroy to recommend to the City Council an action plan to address oak wilt as: recommend a part-time arborist, update the oak wilt map, education for residents, and links for recommendations. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Jones.

A roll call vote was held.

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

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

9. Discuss Options and Activities for the Arbor Day Event Scheduled for Tues. Oct. 4, 2022 at Camp Young Judaea Beginning at 2:30PM

The plans for the Arbor Day Event scheduled for Oct. 4, 2022 at Camp Young Judaea from 2:30 - 4:30PM were discussed.

10. Discuss Potential Grant Application for Oak Wilt Prevention from TPWD and/or LCRA

Council Liaison Pulley reported that a private company, GrantWorks Inc., is evaluating grant options and will recommend whether or not it is advisable to apply for these grants.

11. Discuss and Take Appropriate Action on Reusing the Wood from the Dead Trees in City Right-of-Way

A motion was made by Chairperson Jones that if a contracted person is willing to remove a dead live oak, not red oak, in the city's right-of-way for their own use without charging the city, the city will use them instead of hiring a contractor to remove the tree. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Rasco.

After discussion, a roll call vote was held.

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

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

ADJOURN

Chairperson Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:44PM.

Cindy Jones, Chairperson

Suzanne Mac Kenzie, City Secretary