



WAKE FOREST URBAN FORESTRY BOARD

MINUTES

**May 14, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Don Daria, Suzanne Beaumont, Anna Faatiliga Berg, Sarah Hutchins, Will Opio, Mike Reischman, Charles Sheffield, Zachary Donahue (Ex-Officio)

Guests Present: Brian Haines

Staff: Evan Keto, Urban Forester

Call to Order

The May 14, 2012 meeting of the Urban Forestry Board was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by Chairman Daria.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting were provided to the UFB with the meeting agenda.

ACTION: Mike Reischman moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2012 meeting as submitted. Will Opio seconded and the motion carried unanimously (7-0).

New Business

New Members

Prospective new member Brian Haines was introduced to the Board.

Hazard Tree Removal

A number of hazard trees were discussed, and Bartlett is to remove as many of them as soon as possible. Due to budgetary limits, the remaining trees will have to be removed with assistance

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from the Electric Department tree trimming crew, or by contractors during the next fiscal year. There will be no street trees replaced this spring, and they will be postponed until the Fall.

Girl Scout Garden/Green Medal Awards

A troop of Girl Scouts has begun creation of a garden on Town property at Basley Street. It was suggested that projects such as this could qualify for a Green Medal Award, and that evaluating these projects could be done as a standing item at each Board meeting.

Unified Development Ordinance

The UDO, its relationship to the urban forestry program, and ways to participate in its development were discussed. Evan Keto will forward information about accessing and commenting on the draft UDO to the Board.

Old Business

Tree Sculpture

The Bear Tree Sculpture was completed.

Budget and Staffing

The 2012-2013 urban forestry program budget was discussed. This budget includes an increase in funding for the urban forestry program, but no temporary staff to assist with program activities, and a reduction in the work that can be done by the Electric Department's tree trimming crew. The Board expressed general agreement that the urban forestry program should have temporary staff as soon as possible, and that permanent tree maintenance staff should be hired. These staff would help to reduce long-term costs of tree maintenance and improve public safety by removing hazardous trees and responding in the case of storms or other disasters.

Tree Inventory

The 2012 tree inventory will be done in-house to reduce costs. Evan Keto is working with Sarah Sheldon in MIS to procure and set up the needed equipment for data collection.

Volunteering Opportunities for UFB

Some Board members indicated a desire to be more active in participating in urban forestry projects. Evan Keto will prepare a list of upcoming projects, and ways in which Board Members could assist.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Don Daria, Chairman

Evan Keto, Secretary