

MINUTES
City of Dallas
Urban Forest Advisory Committee

Tuesday, September 5, 2006, 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall

Attending Committee Members:

Councilmember Ed Oakley, Councilmember Pauline Medrano, Michael Anderson, Chip Clint, Matt Grubisich, Steve Houser, Michael Hellmann, Walter Passmore, Bill Seaman

Attending Guests:

Fred Burrell, Texas Cooperative Extension; Dick Coupe, North Texas Master Naturalists; Louie Hampton, Sam Hill, Bryan Kilburn, Ron Kovatis, Kurt Kretsinger, Team Leader; David Marquis, Scot and Marilyn Miller, Willis Winters, Dallas Park and Recreation Department

Absent Committee Members:

Councilmember Leo Chaney, Jr., Wesley Harder, Frank Libro, Mayor's Chief of Staff; Cassandra McLaughlin, Gary Olp, Jeff Quinters, Luis Salcedo, Norm Strang, Michael Sultan, Keith Thomas

Chairman, Steve Houser, called the September 2006 meeting of the Urban Forest Advisory Committee to order at 4:02pm. The Chair circulated the Sign-In Sheet, asking each attendee to record their attendance. He then distributed copies of the meeting agenda.

Mr. Houser asked if there were any additions, revisions, or corrections to the minutes of the August meeting minutes, which were distributed for review by email. Being none, the Chair called for a motion to approve the August minutes. A motion was made by Ron Kovatis, and a second was made by Chip Clint. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair noted that the City's Environmental Health Commission was scheduled to be briefed on UFAC's Strategic Plan on Monday, October 2nd in one of the conference rooms on L1. Everyone was welcomed to attend. Michael Hellmann was continuing his efforts to have a similar presentation placed on the Park and Recreation Board's Agenda in September.

Mr. Houser noted that there were continuing discussions with Steve Worden, PARD District Supervisor regarding the Committee's interest in the health and care of the trees in historic Dealey Plaza. It was noted that some pruning had recently taken place on a limited number of trees, but the chair wanted input from the committee regarding supporting and effort to organize arborists from throughout the state to provide another tree care effort. Mr. Houser stated that such a project would be consistent with the Committee's mission statement and strategic plan. The event could also serve as a training opportunity for PARD personnel. The Chair stated he was willing to contact Certified Arborists throughout the State, but the event would require the assistance of the Committee. He then asked for open discussion. Michael Anderson suggested Paul Lendenberger be contacted regarding sponsors for providing box lunches and tee shirts. No final action was taken.

Mr. Houser announced that the 20th Annual Texas Tree Conference is scheduled for October 5 and 6, 2006, in Round Rock. The theme of this year's conference is "What Works in Texas". In

addition to the main program there will be a pre-conference workshop focusing on municipal forestry and tree protection ordinances on Wednesday, October 4th. The Chair asked that anyone interested in more information contact Matt Grubisich or Bill Seaman.

Mr. Houser stated that he had received a copy of DFW International Airport's Tree Management Plan from Councilmember Pauline Medrano. He asked the committee members if they would like to be briefed on the plan by Jud Piner, the airport's arborist. The consensus was that a briefing would be appreciated.

The Chair asked for a status report from Michael Hellmann regarding the City Forester position. Mr. Hellmann was please to introduce to the Committee, Mr. Walter Passmore. Mr. Passmore was welcomed by the committee. It was noted that he would be officing at City Hall and he could be reached at 214-670-4070. An e-mail address and business cards would be available soon. The Chair noted that he was speaking on behalf of the entire Urban Forest Advisory Committee in welcoming him and looking forward to working with him. Mr. Houser added that the Committee was there to support his efforts.

Mr. Houser asked for and update on the Dallas Parks Foundation. Willis Winters noted that he had received word that the Foundation would be willing to manage a separate sub-account for the Urban Forest Advisory Committee. Details on the arrangement could be negotiated.

The Chair introduced Bryan Kilburn to the Committee. Mr Kilburn, who is a Degreed Forester and GIS analyst for the Trinity River Corridor Project, briefed the committee on the Great Trinity Forest as it relates to the Trinity River Corridor Project. He informed the committee that as part of the TRCP, a forestry management plan would be developed using the resources of Stephen F. Austin University. He stated the management plan would be extensive and comprehensive and would be constructed by a team of professionals lead by Gary Kronrad.

The Chair asked for reports from the Team Leaders. Kurt Kretsinger stated that the Tree Planting and Transplanting Team met before the Committee meeting and had completed a rough draft of an education booklet. There goal was to have the final draft ready to present to the committee at the October meeting. Chip Clint informed the Committee that the Tree Maintenance and Forest Management Team had developed a formal set of goals. A copy of the goals was distributed to the Committee members. Bill Seaman noted that the Land Planning, Development, and City Codes Team was continuing to review the existing city ordinances. There would be meetings during the coming month to review the information being gathered.

Mr. Houser asked to re-introduce Mr. Passmore to the Committee for the benefit of those members that were not present during the first introduction. Again, Mr. Passmore was recognized by the Committee.

The Chair asked David Marquis for an update on information he might have regarding the efforts of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce to have City Council consider changes to Article X to benefit the southern sector of Dallas. Mr. Marquis asked that the Committee produce a white paper addressing issues that the Committee agrees need to be reviewed. Mr. Marquis agreed to discuss issues in detail.

Mr. Houser then introduced Mr. Scot Miller and his wife, Marilyn Miller. Mr. Houser stated that Mr. Miller is a world-renowned photographer. He and Marilyn have donated many hours working with Trinity River officials as well as Groundwork Dallas to spur pubic interest in the Trinity River. Mr. Miller presented a video short on the Trinity River and the Great Trinity Forest.

Following the presentation, Marilyn invited all the Committee members to attend “The Great Trinity Forest—An exhibition of Fine Art Photographic Prints” featuring the works of Dan Burkholder, Scot Miller and Jill Skupin Burkholder from September 29—October 15, 2006 at the sun to moon GALLERY in Carrollton. Additionally, Ms. Miller extended a special invitation to the wine and cheese Artists Reception from 6:00 to 9:00pm on Friday, September 29, 2006. A portion of the sales from “The Great Trinity Forest” will benefit Groundwork Dallas.

Following the presentation, Mr. Houser thanked the Millers for sharing their work with the committee.

With no further items to address, the Chair adjourned the meeting a 5:18pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Bill Seaman, Committee Member