

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee**  
**City of Dallas**  
**Tuesday, June 5, 2007 4:00pm**  
**Park and Recreation Department Conference Room**  
**Dallas City Hall**

**Attendees:**

*Michael Anderson, Stan Aten, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michael FitzGerald, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Bryan Kilburn, Kurt Kretsinger, Eric Lerner, Cassandra McLaughlin, Walter Passmore, Jeff Quinters, Luis Salcedo, Bill Seaman, Meghna Tare.*

Chair, Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and welcomed all Committee Members and guests. Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed and the sign-in sheet was circulated.

Mr. Houser announced that Mayor Laura Miller had notified the City Council by memorandum that she had selected two new voting members to the Committee to fill the existing vacancies. The Chair stated that it was an honor and a privilege to announce that the Mayor had selected Mr. Kurt Kretsinger, and Mr. Dick Coupe. Mr. Houser asked both members to come to the speaker's podium to be recognized and receive their certificate of membership.

The chair called for a motion to approval the May meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded. Mr. Seaman noted that the official sign-in sheet from the May meeting had been misplaced, and he questioned whether the attendees of the meeting were complete. Mr. Walter Passmore stated that he had a record of the attendees. Mr. Seaman stated that he would revise the final copy of the minutes to reflect Mr. Passmore's listing. With the one noted correction, the motion passed.

The Chair called on Walter Passmore for the City Forester's report. Mr. Passmore stated that preparations for the Citizen Forester program classes were well underway, with only one instructor position yet to be filled. Classes will begin on June 12 at Reverchon Park. Five individuals have officially registered for the classes and more were expected. Consideration for those citizens interested in attending single classes was being discussed. To cover expenses, a fee of \$15 for the first class and \$10 per additional class was being reviewed. Mr. Passmore noted that the next time the program was presented, the classes may be conducted on weekends or evenings to accommodate those individuals that cannot participate during the day on weekdays.

Mr. Passmore noted that the DallasTrees.org website now contains a new direct link to the Dallas Foundation website. In addition, on the Dallas Foundation website, a donation page lists the Dallas Urban Forest Advisory Committee as one of its umbrella organizations. Donations to the Committee and its projects can now be made directly form the Dallas Foundation site. Mr. Passmore added that \$150 had already been received through the new funding method.

Mr. Passmore reported that he had been discussing citizen comments regarding TXU line clearance with Committee Member Jeff Quinters. The discussions have centered around standards for pruning and a significant commitment on the part of the Committee to help educate the public on the realities of line clearance pruning and proper placement of planting new trees as they relate to power lines.

Mr. Passmore noted that funding from the US Forest Service Advisory Committee was currently being studied. Grant funds from that committee could be used to fund the UFAC tree inventory project.

The Chair noted that Luis Salcedo was not able to attend the meeting so there would be no Team Leader report.

Team Leader Kurt Kretsinger reported Winfrey Point tree-planting project at White Rock Lake will be starting. The 2-3 phase project will include the planting of 12 trees from the DFW International Airport nursery and several hundred trees from the City's Reforestation Fund.

Team Leader Bill Seaman had no report.

Team Leader Mike Fitzgerald reported that he hoped to have a presentation on the 1995 Dallas Urban Heat Island Effect. It was noted that the City's Office of Environmental Quality was working toward a similar study so the data from the two studies could be compared. Mr. Fitzgerald also reported that a DVD was available consisting of a compilation of the video clips taken at the Arbor Day event and related activities. Numerous still photographs were also available.

Team Leader Walter Passmore reported that climbing training events for city staff had been conducted along with safety training for chain saw operation. He added that a formal training book for employees on chain saw operation was needed, adding that the city had a responsibility to train and teach employees. Mr. Passmore added that there was a serious issue with young trees being girdled from the inappropriate use of line trimmers. The proper mulching of city trees would help address the problem and would provide an outlet for wood chips produced by the city's disposal of bulk tree trimmings. Stan Aten added that he had noticed the trees at his neighborhood library were mulched in such a way that the tree trunks were being buried. Mike Fitzgerald commented that all training time needed to be documented, reminding the committee that the information would be valuable in the future.

The Chair asked for a report from Acting Chief Arborist, Philip Erwin. Mr. Erwin invited everyone to visit the new blog site <http://dallastrees.blogspot.com>. Mr. Erwin noted that the site was his personal site and the "unofficial site" of the City of Dallas Arborists to assist the community with the urban forest. The site, among other things, contains an Article X checklist and some entertaining video clips. There is a link from the UFAC website to the blog.

Mr. Erwin stated that he was continuing to communicate with the appropriate officials at DART regarding the construction of the new light-rail line along Scyene Road in southeast Dallas

Mr. Dick Coupe reported that time was short to begin the citizen forester program and that notification to the appropriate parties had been completed.

The Chair asked for a report from Bryan Kilburn. Mr. Kilburn reported that he was working with the auditors in their review of the Management Plan for the Great Trinity Forest. Mr. Kilburn added that it was difficult for the auditors to evaluate the selected proposal because the Management Plan that was being requested for the forest was so unique. He knew of no similar plan that had been developed in the past. The Trinity River Corridor Project selected Dr. Gary Conrad to develop the 100-year plan. Cost of the plan was \$500,000 and was to be paid for with general funds. A City Council vote to encumber the funds was placed on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Council Agenda Addendum, but there was a question as to whether the auditors would complete their review by that date. Mr. Kilburn stated that the Committee would be an appropriate group to rally support from environmental groups.

The Chair distributed draft copies of Committee By-Laws for review. Mr. Houser stated the would like for the committee to review them over the next few days and submit any changes or additions to him as soon as possible. The Chair's goal was to have working By-Laws in place before the next meeting, which would necessitate a vote via telephone or email for final approval.

The Chair asked if their was any other committee business from the floor. Noting that there was none, Mr. Houser announced that the next meeting of the Urban Forest Advisory Committee would be on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, the second Tuesday of the month, due to Independence Day falling during the first week of July.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Seaman  
Committee Member