

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas
Tuesday, October 2, 2007 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall**

Attendees:

Kimberly Affat, Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michael Fitzgerald, Matt Grubisich, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Bryan Kilburn, Kurt Kretsinger, Eric Lerner, Crystal Lee, Camilla Mitchell, John Mitchell, Gary Olp, Walter Passmore, Bill Seaman, Harold Spiegel, Lisa Willis.

Chair, Mr. 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. The Chair asked the committee members if there were corrections or additions to the September minutes. With none noted, the minutes were approved unanimously (Motion to accept – Mr. Dick Coupe, Second – Mr. Walter Passmore).

Due to the recent elections, the committee will now include the Mayors Chief of Staff, Mr. Chris Heinbaugh or his Deputy Chief of Staff, Mrs. Paula Blackmon. Our primary contact person for the city council is designated to be the Chair of the Quality of Life Committee. The Chair was pleased to announce that Council Member Mrs. Pauline Medrano has been appointed to this position. Council Members appointed to the Trinity River Project Committee; Chair, Mr. David Neumann and Vice Chair, Dr. Elba Garcia. Both Council Members will also serve on our committee.

Mr. Steve Houser indicated at our last meeting he would work with Code Issues Team Leader, Mr. Bill Seaman in an effort to produce potential position statements/recommendations for committee review. However, they were not able to get any input or advice from leaders in the building and development industry. As with the last briefing regarding city codes, comments and input from the committee will help us devise position statements and recommendations related to various city codes and regulations. After the statements are accepted by the committee, they will be passed on to officials requesting advice from the committee regarding city codes and regulations.

As a result, Mr. Houser will be meeting with committee member and developer / activist, Mr. David Marquis, Mrs. Betsy Del Monte, AIA LEED Certified Principal with the Beck Group, and Mr. Paul Cauduro, Director of Governmental Relations for the Home Builders Association of Dallas. With input from this group, potential position statements/recommendations may be produced. However, due to the comprehensive nature of article 10, there is no projected timeline.

City of Dallas Chief Arborist, Mr. Phil Erwin, provided a briefing regarding existing city development codes as they relate to trees and forest areas. Mr. Erwin touched on primary issues regarding tree mitigation as currently listed under Article 10. More information is available on the website link for Article 10 at www.dallascityhall.com/arborist/articlex.html.

Mr. Steve Houser recently met with Council Members Mr. Jerry Allen and Mr. Sheffie Kadane to discuss urban forestry and deliver a personal copy of our forestry "bible". He plans to meet in the next few weeks with Council Members Mrs. Pauline Medrano, Mr. David Neumann and Dr. Elba Garcia and hopes to meet with the remaining Council Members in the near future.

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Mr. Houser recognized recent contributors and their donations received:

- \$300 from Mr. Harold Spiegel, Preservation Tree Service, in relation to the vertical feet of rope climbed by Mayor Laura Miller during the spring Arbor Day event
- \$2,000 from Mr. Edward III & Mrs. Evelyn Rose (Rusty & Deedie Rose) toward the forest survey, inventory and analysis. The Rose's recently agreed to match the \$25,000 amount donated by Stuart & Shirley Crow bringing their total contribution to **\$27,000**.
- Mr. Trammel S. Crow agreed to fund \$10,000 if the committee raised an additional \$10,000 and the committee recently matched the amount bringing the current total to exceed **\$75,000**.

Mr. Houser encouraged committee members to find others who are willing to help as members of a team or help with redesigning the committee logo, finish the tri-fold hand out, expand our website or assist with raising funds. We continue to seek more matching funds in order to push the forest survey, inventory & analysis forward.

The designation of a new team was announced by Mr. Houser. The Wood Waste Recycling Team will be lead by Committee Secretary, Mrs. Lora Hinchcliff. The team is challenged to develop potential committee positions on the subject to include strategies, plans and recommendations to reach a goal of recycling most (if not all) wood waste generated by the city

Tree and Forest Management Team Leader, Mr. Walter Passmore provided a short briefing of the Downtown Tree Inventory and the Downtown Street Tree Management Plan. There are 2,013 trees in the downtown area, which represents a total tree canopy cover of 1.06%. The average life expectancy of a downtown tree is 15 years. Cedar Elm, Sweetgum and Live Oak represent 51.74% of the population and 70.29% of the population are less than 10" inches in trunk diameter.

We have a great tree planting opportunity coming up on November 17 and we will plant over 1,000 trees in one day. Citi Group is sponsoring the event and a press release is forthcoming. Up to 1,000 volunteers from Citi Group will join committee volunteers and park department staff in planting the 2" caliper trees at six sites throughout the city.

Mr. Passmore, who has been a champion of urban forest education and practices for the City of Dallas, has recently accepted a position with the city of Austin and will be leaving Dallas in two weeks. The Chair, Mr. Steve Houser, presented Walter with a Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to urban forestry in Dallas.

Mr. Bryan Kilburn provided the Trinity Forest Report. A stakeholder meeting will be held October 16 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in auditorium L1FN at City Hall.

Forest Surveys, Inventory & Tracking Team Leader Luis Salcedo was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Bill Seaman, Land Planning, Development and City Codes Team Leader noted that the City Managers office expressed an interest in hiring a consultant to look at the possibility of including some of the principals expressed in the Integrated Storm Water Management

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(ISWM) document, in current city codes. The ISWM document offers general guidelines that help to establish sound city policy regarding the subject. Due to current city codes, the urban forest and the development community may benefit greatly from the outcome.

Public Relations & Media Team Leader, Mr. Mike Fitzgerald briefed the committee on the need to finalize protocol regarding the media with Mayor Lepperts office. The most pressing PR and Media focus is currently on the release of the *ABC's of Planting Trees in Dallas* guide.

Team Leader Kurt Kretsinger unleashed the first copies of the *ABC's of Planting Trees in Dallas*, a number of which were distributed to meeting attendees. The next step, in conjunction with the Public Relations and Media Team, is to roll out a marketing plan and to make the guide website accessible.

Matt Grubisich had no report for the Texas Forest Service.

North Texas Master Naturalist Liaison Dick Coupe announced a Katy Trail Planning Meeting at 12:00 noon on Thursday October 4. The recently formed support group will meet to discuss maintenance of the plant material on the trail at the offices of David Griffith and Company. The group will also look at the installation of landscapes that will educate the public, such as Xeriscapes, native prairies, Wildscapes and many others.

Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison Mr. Eric Lerner briefed us on opportunities to present talks on planting trees during the Dallas Home & Garden Show.

Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) Liaison Mrs. Nicole Cooper was unable to attend the meeting.

Crystal Lee, Executive Assistant and Street Department Liaison, was welcomed to the committee and will provide us with Dallas Street Department reports in the future.

Mr. John Mitchell brought to the committee's attention the elevation of tree related concerns in Forest Hills due the recent removal of trees. Mr. Mitchell is working with City Arborist, Mr. Phil Erwin to explore the issues.

With no other items introduced, the UFAC Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary