

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

Attendees:

Stan Aten, Sara Beckelman, Nicole Cooper, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michael Fitzgerald, Michael Hellmann, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Bryan Kilburn, Kurt Kretsinger, Eric Lerner, Cyndy Lutz, Cassandra McLaughlin, Bree Meadows, John Mitchell, Walter Passmore, Jeff Quinters, Harold Spiegel, Margie Webb.

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 August minutes. With none noted, the minutes were approved unanimously. (Motion to accept – Mr. Dick Coupe, Second – Mr. Jeff Quinters)

Chief Arborist, Mr. Phil Erwin, provided a briefing of existing city development codes as they relate to trees and forest areas. Mr. Erwin touched on primary issues regarding the existing codes. A general discussion ensued with a good exchange of questions and answers. No decisions were made and none were expected at this meeting. It was also announced that Mr. Erwin was recently named as Chief Arborist and a new District Arborist will soon be hired.

Mr. Walter Passmore offered a briefing regarding the Houston Urban Forestry Program. Houston has a very good forest inventory system which utilizes an internship program to cover much of the city footwork. An inventory of Dallas downtown trees was recently completed by Mr. Passmore to provide current canopy coverage information. The report indicates an opportunity to place more trees in parking lots and along sidewalks. "World of Green" whose objective is to promote green practices to reduce heat island effect by planting trees may be a good group to coordinate with to gain volunteers needed on future projects. Mr. Passmore was recently invited to give a presentation to the Greater Dallas Area Home Builders Association. 50 builders attended the event and the association has adopted a green related measure entitled "Tree Protection" with a base level of commitment. In future consideration, it was suggested we include this association when developing position statements.

Team Leader Mr. Kurt Kretsinger is ready to go to press with the *ABC's of Planting Trees in Dallas*. Mr. Kretsinger will bring several copies to the next meeting and informed us the next step is rolling out a marketing plan along with making the "ABC's..." website accessible.

Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison Mr. Eric Lerner gave a presentation regarding the Dallas Urban Forest Advisor Committee during the training of the new Master Gardener class and signed up several new volunteers.

Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) Liaison Mrs. Nicole Cooper provided a briefing regarding the Dallas Sustainable Skylines Urban Heat Initiative. The Houston Advanced Research Center created an outline for consideration and once the OEQ gains feedback on proposed strategies, work on the project will begin.

Mr. Bryan Kilburn suggested the Dallas UFAC host the Trinity Forest public meeting which may be held the 2nd week in October. A preliminary report for the Trinity Forest Management Plan should be ready by then. It was also recommended that a southern sector public meeting be scheduled.

Public Relations & Media Team Leader Mr. Mike Fitzgerald is working on a few things and should have a report at the September meeting.

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Committee Chair Mr. Steve Houser distributed a copy of the Dallas Urban Forestry introductory letter sent to Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert prior to their meeting. Mr. Houser informed us that his meeting with the Mayor was well-received. He also met with Council Members Jerry Allen and "Sheffie" Kadane. Other meetings are scheduled in the future with various Council Members.

Mr. Stan Aten offered a follow up to his fundraising suggestion made at the last meeting which would parallel something similar to the Subaru sales and marketing concept. Mr. Aten has since found out the Subaru program only applies to two of their models. Furthermore, the program only plants seedlings and does so only in the Rio Grande Valley conservancy area.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary