

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall**

Attendees:

Stan Aten, Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Phil Erwin, Michael Fitzgerald, Susan Grabar, Michael Hellmann, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Kurt Kretsinger, Eric Lerner, David Marquis, Brandon Pollard, Susan Pollard, Joe Pumphrey, Jeff Quinters, Bill Seaman, Margie Webb.

UFAC Chair, Mr. Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and welcomed all Committee Members and guests. The Chair asked the committee members if there were corrections or additions to the January minutes. With none noted, the minutes were approved unanimously (Motion to accept – Bill Seaman, Second – Dick Coupe).

Mr. Houser introduced Crispin Reedy, Conservation District Co-chair for Little Forest Hills (LFH) who provided a briefing regarding a potential Little Forest Hills Conservation District. LFH has around 950 lots and approximately 3,000 trees with 8-inch plus caliper. The proposed conservation district will be tailored to preserving existing trees, limiting lot coverage and encouraging the use of permeable surfaces. Until the process is farther along, the Chair will take the issue under advisement and contact committee members by email in the future if necessary.

Mr. Houser also informed the committee that due to other commitments, Mr. Mike Anderson recently submitted his letter of resignation. The letter also expressed appreciation for the committee's hard work.

The Chair was pleased to announce that two friends, Mr. Pat and Astrid Merriman, recently donated \$10,000.00 to our campaign to survey and analyze our urban forest.

The final UFAC Annual Report 2007 was submitted to city officials recently. The report includes UFAC goals for 2008 plus the next two to five years as well as the final Trinity Forest Management Recommendations and much more.

The Chair recently participated in two "webinars" regarding the heat island effect. The first was sponsored by the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) and the second by the EPA. He also reported that a briefing for the Dallas Quality of Life Committee (comprised of seven council members) is scheduled for February 25th, courtesy of Councilmember and Committee Chair, Pauline Medrano, to cover the UFAC annual report including goals that require council support.

Mr. Bryan Kilburn, Sr. Project Manager for the Trinity River Forest was not present. Mr. Michael Hellman provided the Dallas Urban Forest Report, leading with the successful effort to reclassify the Dallas City Urban Forester position. He also reported that Mr. Crayton Webb with the Mary Kay Company is working with him to locate an area near the convention center for their tree planting initiative. Considerations include planting 45 trees, representing the number of years Mary Kay Corporation has been in business, and sponsoring the event in conjunction with an Arbor Day Celebration.

Wood Waste Recycling Team Leader, Lora Hinchcliff, has been in communication with the City Environmental Services Department and will offer an update next month regarding current

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall**

standards for wood waste recycling throughout the city and diversion ideas. Also, the parks department could be further assisted with their wood recycling initiative by campaigning to place the requested wood chippers back in the department budget.

Mr. Philip Erwin, City Arborist, advised us that a new city arborist, Mr. David Rice, begins employment Wednesday, so the department will once again be fully staffed.

Land Planning, Development and City Code Team Leader, Mr. Bill Seaman, advised us that a consultant contract appears on the February 13 council agenda regarding storm water management. Upon approval of the contract, the task force will meet with the consultants on a regular basis to gain recommendations regarding the integration of storm water management practices before the end of 2008.

Public Relations and Media Team Leader, Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, presented a Tree Planting/Public Relations Showcase Proposal to beautify a treeless intersection with large trees. Dense plantings would offer a striking contrast to the treeless intersection. The beautification project would be its own press release standing as a natural exhibit of seasonal change from large canopy in spring and summer followed by fall colors then winter dormancy. The proposal could first be tested on one median, then refined and adapted for other medians in the future. Tree Planting & Transplanting Team Leader, Mr. Kurt Kretsinger, offered some insight on median plantings and proper maintenance. No further position was taken by the committee at this time due to the need to work with the street department officials to discuss the plan and an "Adopt a Median" type of planting program.

Mr. Eric Lamer, Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison and Citizen Forester Team Leader, has vetted several potential sites to host the 2008 Citizen Forester Program events. Timbergreen Branch Library is a possibility for summer sessions 1-3 followed by Reverchon Park and Recreation Center for sessions 4-6. Hampton-Illinois Branch Library and Texas Discovery Gardens were also suggested by committee members as potential sites for the 2008 sessions.

North Texas Master Naturalist Liaison, Mr. Dick Coupe, had no report.

The Chair touched on the forthcoming North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) informational meeting scheduled for February 7, 2008. The agenda includes an overview of the Houston Regional Ecosystem Study by Mr. Mickey Merritt with the Texas Forest Service and NCDC Imaging, a potential contractor for GIS surveys in our region. All interested parties are invited and Dr. Briggs as well as Dr. Qiu with the University of Texas at Dallas will try to attend (they previously briefed us on GIS science & methodology).

Mr. John Mitchell of the Forest Hills District advised the committee that their community has not made progress in including an addendum to protect their trees since our last update and have requested the assistance of Theresa O'Donnell, Director, Development Services.

Stan Aten informed the committee that Oak Cliff Earth Day 2008 will be held at Lake Cliff Park and Methodist Hospital will provide off site parking. Information about the event can be found at www.oakcliffearthday.com.

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2008 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary