

Urban Forest Advisory Committee City of Dallas

Tuesday, March 4, 2008 4:00pm
Conference Room B • L1 Dallas City Hall
Dallas City Hall

Attendees:

Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Phil Erwin, Michael Fitzgerald, Susan Grabar, Matt Grubisich, Michael Hellmann, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Bryan Kilburn, Eric Lerner, Ann Lee; David Marquis, Janette Monear; Jeff Quinters, Luis Salcedo; Bill Seaman; Nicole Cooper and Richard Smart.

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 – Dick Coupe, Second – Susan Grabar).

Mr. Houser introduced Richard Smart, Environmental Coordinator for Dallas Storm Water Management. Mr. Smart offered a briefing of his role with Dallas SWM including his availability for group presentations. There were some inquiries regarding watershed management, the use of trees to mitigate storm water run off and if DSWM could use any of the data currently available using GIS or other imaging.

The Chair was pleased to announce the receipt of the \$10,000.00 challenge grant check from Trammell Crow. Furthermore, Mr. Houser has been notified of a number of events worthy of committee representation, including:

- April 4th & 5th, Texas State Tree Climbing Competition will be held in Fort Worth
- April 18th, Frito Lay Eco-Fair. 1,000 attendees who would like to know more about Urban Forestry and how they can help. The Chair will attend and provide various committee documents on a flash drive rather than handouts for distribution, to help save trees.
- April 20th, Oak Cliff Earth Day. Our Webmaster, Mr. Doug Pierson, agreed to help and possibly Mr. Phil Erwin, Chief Arborist for Dallas.
- April 26th & 27th, Dallas Zoo's Party for the Planet. Event planners requested that the committee have a booth to educate citizens on how they can help the Urban Forest. Attendees can collect tokens during the event and exchange them for the handouts as they leave the Zoo.
- National Arbor Day Foundation requested to partner with the committee in sponsoring a native ecosystem restoration seminar. The Chair requested a motion to approve the partnership which was approved unanimously (Motion to accept – Janette Monear, Second – Lora Hinchcliff).

Chairman Houser touched on his recent Quality of Life Committee (QLC) briefing regarding our annual report and committee goals. The committee answers to the QLC which is comprised of seven Council Members. The Chair will brief the QLC again on April 14th regarding a department or office of urban forestry. Mr. Mike Hellmann, Senior Park Planner with the Park Department is preparing a companion briefing on each department's role regarding urban forestry and how they cooperate. The briefings will educate the Council Members on the subject and the Chair will urge them to establish an office or department of urban forestry within the current governmental structure.

Office of Environmental Quality liaison, Mrs. Nicole Cooper, reported on the results of the Heat Island study by the Houston Advanced Research Center. While the report identifies 300 hot spots, Mr. Hellmann suggested that this be narrowed to the top ten hot spots in Dallas and identify the city

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limits for Dallas on the report. Outlining council districts may be of great interest to the council members. Also, a better legend to read the maps will be useful to properly interpret and best utilize the information. Mrs. Cooper will pass along this information and the Chair will also submit additional questions/suggestions to the Houston Advanced Research Center.

Matt Grubisich, Regional Urban Forester for the Texas Forest Service (TFS), informed us that TFS and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDAFS) scheduled a Dallas visit and they will try to attend our April meeting. Mr. Grubisich also announced to the committee that he submitted his 30-day notice to the Texas Forest Service and plans to gain employment in the private sector.

Sr. Project Manager for the Trinity River Forest, Mr. Bryan Kilburn, presented the Great Trinity Forest (GTF) Management Plan Update. The third phase is complete and the fourth phase is currently in progress. Also, the goals and objectives of the GTF Management Plan have been finalized and he anticipates that the final management plan will consist of multiple volumes containing between 14,000 and 16,000 pages. City staff and Dr. Gary Kronrad are collaborating on a strategy for presenting a draft document to council and stakeholders in the third quarter 2008. Document complexity and length are issues that are being considered.

Mr. Michael Hellman, Sr. Park Planner, offered the Urban Forester report. Mr. Hellman recently began advertising for the open position of Dallas Urban Forester.

Mr. Philip Erwin, Chief Arborist for Dallas, corrected the spelling of the new city arborist, Mr. David Rhoads. He also announced that more information will be forthcoming regarding a Google Group blog that is linked to his existing blog and our website.

Forest Surveys, Inventory & Tracking Team Leader, Mr. Luis Salcedo had no report.

Wood Waste Recycling Team Leader, Ms. Lora Hinchcliff, continues to make inquiries with the City Sanitation Services Department regarding current standards for wood waste recycling and diversion ideas. The park department could be further assisted with their wood recycling initiative by placing the previously requested wood chippers back in the department budget.

Land Planning, Development and City Code Team Leader, Mr. Bill Seaman, advised us that a contract agreement with Dallas has been approved which hires consultants Frieze-Nicholson regarding the establishment of storm water management codes. The consultants will be reviewing an existing document (Integrated Storm Water Management or ISWM) to consider utilizing the protocol in Dallas codes.

Public Relations and Media Team Leader, Mr. Mike Fitzgerald announced that he and Tree Planting & Transplanting Team Leader, Mr. Kurt Kretsinger, have a meeting scheduled this Thursday with city street department officials to discuss a tree planting/public relations "Showcase Proposal". The Chair will also attend to discuss rules and procedures for an "Adopt a Median" type of planting program. The showcase proposal will make a dramatic change in a median that will catch the public's attention. If an adopt a median type of program is announced in the future, it will encourage the public and corporate citizens to donate time or funds to beautify Dallas, clean our air and offset the Heat Island Effect.

Mr. Eric Lerner, Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison and Citizen Forester Team Leader, was happy to report that he is close to finalizing the 2008 Citizen Forester speaker list and program

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schedule. The Dallas County Master Gardener speaker bureau training is now complete with 20 participants qualified and ready. Please watch closely for projects that can be taken on by the Citizen Foresters and report them to the Chair & Mr. Lerner.

Ms. Janette Monear, of the Texas Trees Foundation, announced that Washington approved the forthcoming visit of USDA Forest Service experts to the Dallas area. The visit may occur in April 2008 during which time numerous meetings will be coordinated. Ms Monear brought to our attention the current opportunities within the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC). SUFC is a national coalition to advance a unified urban forest agenda for our nation's communities. This successful cooperative program leverages \$3 for every \$1 in federal assistance and provides critical capacity for state and local programs. Ms. Monear has the opportunity to lobby for federal earmarks and it is strongly recommended the Dallas UFAC join her in these efforts. Team Leader, Mr. Luis Salcedo made a motion in support of the SUFC recommended Federal investment in urban forests. With a second from Team Leader, Mr. Bill Seaman the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Ann Lee, of Winnetka Heights, informed the committee of their community efforts to protect trees and to preserve the mature oak trees in their neighborhood. She also expressed concerns regarding the recent pruning of trees in her neighborhood to clear them from existing power lines.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary