

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009 4:00 pm
Conference Room 'C' • L1FN
Dallas City Hall**

Attendees: Steve Aten, Mary Ayala; Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michael FitzGerald, Laura Foland; Cory Herpel; Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Eric Larner, Gary Olp, Susan Pollard; Amanda Popken, Richard Smart, C. Michael Stevens, Bob Stimson; Bert Vandenberg.

UFAC Chair, Mr. Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. welcoming all committee members and guests. A warm welcome was extended to Ms. Mary Ayala; Mr. Cory Herpel; Ms. Laura Foland, and Mr. Bob Stimson. Ms. Ayala will be tag teaming with the park department regarding the recreation component of the Dallas Trinity River Corridor. Mr. Herpel is working with Mr. Richard Smart, Dallas Storm Water Management and Outreach. Ms. Foland represents the city attorney office.

Mr. Houser asked the Committee members if there were any corrections or additions to the March 3 meeting minutes. With none noted, a motion to accept was made by Mr. Eric Larner and a second by Mr. Dick Coupe. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The Sun to Moon Gallery exhibit opening regarding the Great Trinity River Forest was a huge success. There was a steady crowd of interested participants that included numerous dignitaries from the time the gallery opened until well after the closing. Late in the day, Dallas City Manager, Mary Suhm stopped by to show support. The gallery will continue to be open on the weekends through May 2.

The Chair recently met with Mayor Leppert and Paula Blackmon, the Mayors' Deputy Chief of Staff, to discuss Urban Forest Advisory Committee Annual Report 2008. They also discussed numerous ways to work together in accomplishing the objectives outlined in the report. Mr. Houser asked for the mayor's help with the Adopt-a-Median program in the future. Committee members received an electronic copy of the report and are encouraged to read the support letter from Mayor Leppert as well as our updated *Strategic Plan for Urban Forestry Initiatives*. To review the related presentations during 2008 and early 2009, you can click on our list serve link and hit "next" until you reach "UFAC Presentations 2008-2009." www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp. Mr. Houser also highly recommends reviewing Dr. Fang Qui's presentation regarding our research project as well as the presentations for the EPA's Sustainable Communities Conference.

For the record, liaisons, advisors and team leaders are primarily chosen due to their commitment and past support of committee objectives, both in words and in deeds. The committee supports and works with a vast array of other organizations but it is their direct involvement that helps us the most. This is also how voting members are chosen.

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The Chair is often unsure about what should be emailed to the committee and why? Due to the increasing amount of material often emailed to the committee, there is a greater need to reduce what is sent. This is often a tough call but emails should include tree related topic of pertinent or significant interest to the committee. As a result, upcoming events may not be covered twice and requests to send something to the committee may not always be approved. In some cases, it is too much for the Chair to track and send. In the big picture, we need to keep the committee focused on our objectives as well as the education and support necessary to reach our various committee goals. The deciding factor is if the issue directly relates to our strategic plans or overall goals for the city. Formal committee minutes are often edited using the same criteria. We love to hear of other great programs, events and educational seminars but we try to reduce the information to a succinct version and include what may be most important to the committee.

As a reminder, the committee will often take a vote on issues by email to ensure a written record of the vote and to expedite committee affairs. As a result, if you have an opinion on any subject relating to committee affairs or want to encourage taking a position on an issue, it is strongly recommended you contact the voting members directly. A discussion of an issue during a committee meeting does not ensure that all voting members understand the details from all perspectives.

Shortly after our last meeting, Mr. Houser received two computer hard drives that contain the deliverables for our research project. It is the largest data set that Dr. Qiu, Assistant Professor with UTD ever received and the data almost crashed UTD's "super computer". They had to develop a new algorithm to break the data into usable pieces. The Chairman may ask Dr. Qiu to provide a briefing in the future as background before he completes the project.

UFAC was recently asked to join Alliance for Community Trees (ACT). The membership fee is \$125.00, but we currently do not have the funds. The Chairman did share a brochure concerning the alliance so we would be familiar with who (or what) they are in the future. They are a valuable resource that we want to support in the future as funds become available.

The Chair briefly described the recent history of the tree ordinance discussions including the need to provide incentives for responsible land use, development or redevelopment. Mr. Luis Salcedo, Mr. Phil Erwin, Mr. Bob Stimson, Mr. David Marquis, Mr. Bill Seaman and Mr. Steve Houser participated in the development of the rough draft concepts to be considered for inclusion in the "matrix" for tree mitigation offset credits (or incentives) regarding the Dallas Tree Ordinance (Article 10). Mr. Houser walked the committee through some examples of calculations of tree mitigation offsets. Mr. Stimson discussed the general developer's perspective and the three properties chosen as examples. As the matrix and overall recommended changes makes progress and goes through further revision, the committee will ask city attorneys to look over the draft to determine if any conflicts exist with local, state or federal laws. Once committee input is received and a draft version is approved, we will proceed with a public stakeholder meeting in the near future. Afterward, a final version will be approved

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and submitted to Mayor Leppert and Councilmember/Chair of the Quality of Life Committee, Pauline Medrano.

Chief Arborist for the City, Mr. Phil Erwin, is working with Ms. Karen Woodard, Dallas Urban Forester, on the reforestation purchase process and tree species selection. This includes setting parameters for the reforestation program and the city's ability to hold vendors responsible for meeting specifications. The effort will reduce potential future problems by clarifying process details.

Ms. Amanda Popken, Dallas Office of Economic Development Liaison, is putting together an economic development atlas geared toward national and international businesses that may consider relocating or holding conventions in Dallas. The intent is to provide tree and forest related selling points. The environmental section will focus on green building and she would like to include information on the Trinity River Forest, the number of parks in Dallas and interesting forest facts.

Public Relations and Media Team Leader, Mr. Mike FitzGerald, is moving into the review process of our website updates. Citizen Forester, Ms. Mary Graves, agreed to help review and edit the website text.

Mr. Eric Lerner, Citizen Forester (CF) Team Leader and Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison, reported on CF participation during the recent privet removal effort at the Trinity Forest Buckeye Trail and during the city's Arbor Day tree planting at Skyline High School. Citizen Foresters had high visible presence during the Arbor Day planting and served as team leaders for different groups planting trees. Evening Citizen Forester classes will start in August with select field training on weekends and Mr. Lerner estimates 25-30 people will be in the class. The Chair suggested that CF's work with AmeriCorps and Groundwork Dallas volunteers in establishing a network of trails in the Trinity Forest. This is a high priority for Groundwork Dallas and the project is consistent with committee goals but CF's will need "trail builder" training.

Mr. Stan Aten, representing Oak Cliff Earth Day, announced registration for the event closed early with 135 exhibitors. Also, the Friends of Oak Cliff are encouraging the city to restore 60 acres of park area built during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) period.

The Chair requested additional comments or questions. With no other items introduced, the UFAC Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary