

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas**

**Tuesday, November 3, 2009 4:00 pm
Conference Room 'A' • L1FN
Dallas City Hall**

Attendees: Stan Aten, Sara Beckelman, Paula Blackmon, Meranda Carter-Cohn, Dick Coupe, Bob Curry, Philip Erwin, Michael FitzGerald, Richard Grayson, Matt Grubisich, Michael Hellmann, Timothy Herfel, Lora Hinchcliff, Steve Houser, Katie Jensen, Kurt Kretsinger, Eric Lerner, Brad Mayfield, Janette Monear, Gary Olp, Betsy Orton, Micah Pace, Amanda Popken, Bill Seaman, Karen Woodard.

UFAC Chair, Mr. Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. welcoming all committee members and guests. Betsy Orton, Development Director for the Texas Trees Foundation (TTF), Katie Jensen a new resident of Dallas, and Richard Grayson, a member of the North Texas Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist program, introduced themselves and were heartily welcomed to the committee meeting.

To allow ample time for the TTF to present their "Roadmap" program and allow for questions and comments, all other reports were waived for this meeting. The request for a second briefing originated from Mayor Leppert's office.

The floor was then released to Mr. Matt Grubisich, of Urban Renewal, Inc., who gave a quick update on the "Roadmap to Tree Planning and Planting". They tested five attributes, (1) land cover classification – trees, water, buildings, impervious surfaces, grass, bare soil, etc. (2) land description – green versus gray infrastructure, impervious versus pervious, (3) parking lots (number of trees needed to reach 15% canopy cover), (4) different attributes and searches that can be done with the data – commercial, industrial, multi-family residential, parks, public service, etc. and (5) use of EPA information, which enabled them to break down areas into temperature ranges. They identified areas within Dallas that will allow just shy of 2 million trees to be planted. The "Roadmap" is designed to be flexible and driven by the end user. The "Roadmap" cannot identify existing tree species. It only looks for available open areas. He noted that their program is for planting on private land, in cooperation with ONCOR, as well as on school properties. They do not have any plans to plant on public property at this time.

A discussion and question period included at least the following:

How can the "Roadmap" address the city's movement to promote more pedestrian friendly areas? They can pull up information by block number to evaluate areas; however the program can't anticipate trees already planted or details on the existing infrastructure.

The "Roadmap" requires a person on the ground to visit each site to survey many site conditions before actual plantings (underground utilities, overhead wires, existing trees nearby, etc...).

Can the software identify tree species? No, but it can look for available tree planting areas

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based on temperature, with the hottest areas starting at less than 10% tree canopy and the coolest at 30% canopy.

Who will provide the funding for purchase, installation and maintenance? TTF plans to partner with other businesses, using the roadmap as a tool to get their involvement.

A meeting was suggested by the Committee Chair to find ways to work together on the Roadmap details as well as other programs.

A request was previously sent by our Tree Planting and Transplanting Team Leader, Mr. Kurt Kretsinger to borrow John Stack's truck to water our Skillman trees but it was turned down. Ms. Janette Monear, Executive Director, Texas Trees Foundation, advised that the truck was not legally theirs at the time therefore they could not loan it to others.

Ms. Monear reported that they spent a lot of time last year to redesign their organization and she now has all new staff, including Betsy Orton, Development Director, who was in attendance at the meeting. They have also downsized to only one nursery. They are just now coming out of "hibernation" from the reorganization. A new logo will be announced in December and a new stated mission - "investing in trees for a healthy community". She stated that the TTF is very interested in getting funding for trees in Dallas like Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston and Houston. A general discussion was held regarding any plans to work with the Committee in the future.

Ms. Monear advised they will be hiring an Urban Forester for TTF in the coming year. The Urban Forester will be available for homeowners and other private property owners to discuss tree plantings. They want some control over the recommendations, actual plantings and tracking of the trees so all the information will not be available directly to the public.

In response to a question from Mr. Seaman regarding rental property plantings, Ms. Monear advised that in Minneapolis they approached renters to see if they were interested as they would have to take care of the trees. Afterward, they approached the actual property owner, if possible.

Ms. Monear also advised that TTF will be working with the City of Richardson in a turn key operation to plant 50,000 trees.

As the Citizen Forester class was scheduled for 7:00 pm across town, the meeting adjourned after the discussion, at 6:00 pm. The class required Ms. Karen Woodard, Citizen Forester Instructor; Janette Monear (speaker at the class); Eric Lerner, the Citizen Forester Team Leader; and Sara Beckelman, who would be helping with the class. Therefore, all further reports were postponed until the next meeting.

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The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Beckelman
Assistant Secretary for the Committee
From notes provided by the Committee Secretary, Ms. Lora Hinchcliff