

**Urban Forest Advisory Committee  
City of Dallas**

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

Attendees: Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michael FitzGerald, Lora Hinchcliff, Jennifer Hiromoto, Steve Houser, Eric Lerner, Gary Olp, Jeff Quinters, Bill Seaman, Michael Stevens, Norm Strang, Karen Woodard.

UFAC Chair, Mr. Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all committee members and guests. A warm welcome was extended to Ms. Jennifer Hiromoto, City Planner.

Mr. Houser asked the Committee members if there were any corrections or additions to the February meeting minutes. The February 3, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously. A motion to accept was made by Mr. Fitzgerald and a second by Mr. Eric Lerner.

The Chair expects to receive the Mayor's approval of the proposed member list for 2009 as well as a cover letter for our annual report to the Mayor and City Council in the near future.

Mr. Houser was very pleased to announce that long term committee friends and donors, Mr. & Mrs. Pat Merriman recently agreed to hire professional grant writer, Mrs. Barbara Van Pelt, to help us raise funds. The Chair met with them a few weeks ago and they will collectively work on potential prospects.

Mr. Houser also wanted to note for the record that the upcoming Sustainable Skyline Conference will include Dr. Fang Qiu, Associate Professor of GIS & Remote Sensing, UTD; Mr. Phil Erwin; Ms. Crystal Lee; Karen Walz, Project Manager for Vision North Texas; and Tim Herfel, EPA Region 6, "Greenscapes" Partnership Coordinator. The Chair is working to find out the details of the EPA's "Greenscapes" Partnership. Also listed in the main track are Mayor Leppert; Dr. Dave Nowak; Mr. David Hitchcock, Houston Advanced Research Center; and Mr. Matt Grubisich, Urban Renewal, among many others.

Jeff Quinters of ONCOR brought to our attention the upcoming trees and utility conference scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> which may coincide with our April UFAC meeting. The conference will be hosted in Dallas at the Fairmount Hotel.

Ms. Karen Woodard, Dallas Urban Forester, provided Mrs. Sara Beckelman with copies of two codes involving trees that seem to be most confusing. Mrs. Beckelman in turn provided the committee with copies of Section 48-11 and Section 18-14.1. The Chair will email these to the committee.

This weekend is the pre-Buckeye Trail clean up to beat back some of the Chinese Privet (an invasive non-native plant). Ten Citizen Foresters volunteered to help. A management plan for the trail will follow next year.

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March 14<sup>th</sup> is the annual Reverchon Park Round-up. This event gives community friends, neighbors and volunteers the opportunity to get out and work in the area parks. Projects include planting flower beds, clearing fallen limbs, stacking fallen wood along a hillside to reduce erosion and cleaning up trash.

A news conference and Kick-off to the "Roadmap" to Tree Planting in Dallas will be held March 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Center for Community Cooperation, Dallas, Texas. March 28<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the annual Arbor Day celebration for City of Dallas. Texas Trees Foundation (TTF) will Kick-off the "Roadmap" to Tree Planting at Skyline High School and celebrate Arbor Day with the City of Dallas. The event will be conducted with the help of Citizen Foresters, and teams will be grouped to assist and mentor students while 100 trees are planted at Skyline High School. The ceremony for Arbor Day will be brief and include a proclamation at 9:00 am, with tree planting beginning shortly thereafter. A news conference will follow with the presentation of the "Roadmap". The major players involved with this event include the Texas Forest Service, City of Dallas, WFAA Project Green, EPA, E-Surance, and of course, TTF.

There is a long list of tree and environmental events in April. Ms. Woodard is working with the Office of Environmental Quality in an attempt to get other city departments that have any type of environmental impact together, to allow better coordination of future events. Ms. Woodard is close to completing the city training modules relating to trees, with five of six districts having participated. The Street & Public Works Departments were offered the same training and Ms. Woodard is trying to bring them on board and make them aware of what's going on. Park Maintenance District 2 is hosting a "storm water and trees" summer camp where area recreation centers can spend a day together learning about storm water management issues and city forestry. Ms. Woodard continues to work with Mr. Eric Larner, Team Leader for the Citizen Foresters, to develop the details of Citizen Forester training class for this year.

Chief Arborist for the City, Mr. Phil Erwin, is working to streamline the city's tree purchasing process by narrowing down the specifications, and parameters. He will have final tree recommendations forthcoming. Mr. Erwin also informed the committee that TTF will brief City Council regarding the "Roadmap" on Wednesday.

Mrs. Sara Beckelman reported for Mr. Steve Worden, Dallas Parks and Recreation Department Liaison and Interim Manager for Samuell Farm. The parks department has designated areas in the park as wildflower sanctuaries. They are also chipping tree trimmings and leaving the wood chips on site in many parks. A meeting will be held tomorrow on the subject to clarify the issues.

Ms. Lora Hinchcliff, Wood Waste Recycling Team Leader, is scheduled to meet later in the week with Mr. Adam Jochelson, Environmental Engineer and new liaison for City of Dallas Sanitation Department. In addition to touring the McCommas Bluff Landfill, Mr. Jochelson will provide an overview of the current system used to track and report material accepted at the

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landfill including bulky brush, tree trimmings, green materials and construction wood waste.

Mr. Bill Seaman, Land Planning, Development and City Codes Team Leader, stated the narrative is done for committee recommendations regarding the city tree ordinance and the document currently consists of 50 pages. Rather than printing the narrative it will be available on our website in the future. The committee was reminded that it is just a draft and Mr. Seaman will be very meticulous in recording and documenting all input received. The same holds true for any future public hearings. The entire document is included in the draft with recommended changes listed in the right hand column of the document. Mr. Seaman will ask for committee input during the following two weeks, in order to make any revisions. He will also be in touch with the city legal department regarding proper wording and phrasing. He plans to have the revisions completed by our April meeting. The Chair and committee offered a round of applause for Mr. Seaman's hard work on this complex project.

Public Relations and Media Team Leader, Mr. Mike FitzGerald, said he is receiving a great deal of input on text that he is developing for our website. Mr. FitzGerald is about 60-70% finished with rough draft language. This will be followed by a review process which in turn will be followed by a template web. The donation page of our website (DallasTrees.org) was revised to make it more user-friendly and it includes a link leading to the Dallas Parks Foundation in order to make online donations. The Chair recognized Mr. FitzGerald's hard work taking on the website task. His efforts will make the site better. The "ASP" location for the member and supporter side of our website was noted by Mrs. Beckelman, which allows access to all official committee documents: [www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp](http://www.DallasTrees.org/lisfiles.asp). It may also include a link to our recommended changes to the city's tree ordinance (Article 10).

Mr. Eric Lerner, Citizen Forester Team Leader and Dallas County Master Gardener Liaison, touched briefly on the three March projects covered by Ms. Woodard: the Buckeye Trail, Reverchon Park and the Arbor Day celebration, in which volunteers will be needed. Mr. Lerner issued an email survey to all previous Citizen Foresters who have signed up since the program began. He received a 30% response to the survey providing some helpful information, including requests to start the program in late August to avoid the summer heat.

After three tree identification site visits, a final report is ready regarding the tree ID project for Rowlett Park. Citizen Forester's did an outstanding job preparing the report. Citizen Foresters, Ms. Maria Perez and Ms. Elizabeth FitzSimmons, were the key players in compiling the data and completing the report. There are just a few finishing touches to be made on the report before it is presented to the Rowlett Park Board.

The Chairman provided the Texas Forest Service (TFS) report on behalf of Mr. Micah Pace, TFS Regional Urban Forester (Dallas area). Mr. Pace emailed Mr. Houser a copy of the project he is working on in Irving which includes a tree survey and analysis to quantify the benefits of the surveyed trees. The information will go a long way in educating officials regarding the direct

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correlation between trees and our quality of life.

Mr. Dick Coupe, Liaison for the North Texas Master Naturalist (NTMN) program provided the Master Naturalist report. There are 45 new enrollees in the 2009 NTMN class. They have a number of projects and programs already scheduled April through May, but they will do what they can to support the committee. A conference sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is scheduled for tomorrow. The conference topic is Wildlife and the Urban Environment. Also, the North Texas Master Naturalists are planning a May 16<sup>th</sup> regional conference. The conference is open to area teachers as well as Master Naturalists. Pre-registration fee is \$30 and. \$35 at the door. Please contact Mr. Coupe if you are interested: [Jdcoupe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jdcoupe@sbcglobal.net) .

The Chairman mentioned that NTMN Mr. Jim Varnum, as well as others in the Dallas County Master Gardener program, email lists notifying him of opportunities for advanced training hours and volunteer hours. Mr. Houser does not mind funneling this information to the committee, but wanted to gather a consensus to ensure that others want or need the information. A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Gary Olp suggested labeling the attachment in a way that provides people the option to open it or take a pass. Mr. Olp mentioned that the current LEED rating system doesn't really address trees relative to green buildings as well as their influence on energy consumption when planted properly. Also, what are top 5 – 10 recommended species for streets, homes, commercial buildings, or various other locations? All good questions that require further investigation.

The Chair requested additional comments or questions. With no other items introduced, the UFAC Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff  
Committee Secretary