

Urban Forest Advisory Committee
City of Dallas
Tuesday, July 10, 2007 4:00pm
Park and Recreation Department Conference Room
Dallas City Hall

Attendees:

Michael Anderson, Sara Beckelman, Dick Coupe, Philip Erwin, Michelle Gonzalez, Susan Gregory, Matt Grubisich, Steve Houser, Lora Hinchcliff, Bryan Kilburn, David Marquis, Jeff Quinters, Luis Salcedo, Bill Seaman.

Chair, Steve Houser, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and welcomed all Committee Members and guests. Mr. Houser extended the Committee's appreciation to Lora Hinchcliff, who recently agreed to become the committee secretary. Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed and the sign-in sheet was circulated.

The Chair asked the committee members if there were corrections or additions to the June minutes. With none noted, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Walter Passmore is out of town.

Team Leader Luis Salcedo had no report.

Team Leader Kurt Kretsinger reported that the reviving and revising of the planting tree guide *ABC's of Planting Trees in Dallas* is underway. They would like to add a one page section addressing the importance of implementing a watering schedule.

Team Leader Bill Seaman had no report.

Team Leader Mike Fitzgerald reported Dr. Ken Morgan at Texas Christian University, who is an expert on the "Heat Island Effect" and had committed to sending a copy of said report to Mr. Fitzgerald, has been difficult to track down. Mr. Fitzgerald will therefore pursue contacting other professors to obtain a copy of the *Urban Heat Island Report* to show how trees can reduce urban summer temperatures. Mr. Fitzgerald also suggested taking advantage of the recent rainfall to see if there is any quantitative measurement available relative to tree growth.

City Arborist Phil Erwin had no report.

NTMN Liaison Dick Coupe reported that the Buckeye Trail Project will be submitted by Jim Flood in the special project competition for the 2007 Texas Master Naturalist State Meeting October 12-14. Bryan Kilburn has photos that may help NTMN in their presentation. Mr. Houser suggested NTMN also check with Scott Miler for more video coverage. www.trinityrivercorridor.org

DCMG Liaison Mr. Eric Lerner reported they are trying to develop a stronger 'core' tree group. UFAC is working to develop a speaker group for community and special group presentations.

Mr. Bryan Kilburn reported that the Trinity River Corridor Project is waiting for the City to approve the contract for the Trinity River Forest management plan. As soon as insurance is approved, they will plan three public meetings for input on the front end and expect to facilitate this in the next 6-8 weeks. Overall we are looking at a 6-month timeframe with the expectation of an approved draft management plan in December 2007 or January 2008. Also of note, Shane Herington of Texas A&M Cooperative Extension Service has booked Bryan to speak at their workshop Saturday July 14 at 9:00 a.m.

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Matt Grubisich (TFS Grants) stated nothing is currently in the pipeline.

Mr. Houser opened the floor discussion regarding our new Mayor Tom Leppert and new city council members. Ms. Renee Sexton serves as Mr. Leppert's assistant and has scheduled a July 30 meeting between Mayor Leppert and Mr. Houser. Mr. Houser has dropped off the 'bible' on Urban Forestry to Mr. Leppert's office and informed the committee that Mr. Dave Newman will serve as the Trinity River Corridor Project appointee.

Mr. Houser announced that two long term supporters of tree and urban forestry related issues, Dr. John and Margie Haley have recently sent a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Dallas Parks Foundation, leaving approximately \$2,500.00 still needed to receive the \$10,000.00 challenge grant from Trammell S. Crow. Both have also offered significant support to the Texas Tree Trails, Dallas Historic Tree Coalition, and several other environmental causes to include the recently reorganized "Sustainable Dallas". www.sustainabledallas.org. Their ED is Terry Moore terry.moore@sustainabledallas.org. Sustainable Dallas is working with the Dallas City Department of Environmental Services to promote their efforts.

Mr. Houser is working with Walter Passmore to produce a formal tree climber training program within the city park department. They hope to improve the safety, efficiency and quality of the department's tree pruning practices. The Citizen Forester Program is going well with the second class held today. The program may revert training to Saturday in the future and will establish training protocol as the program continues moving along.

The UFAC August meeting will include a briefing from OEQ on the Dallas Sustainable Skylines Urban Heat Initiative. Earth Day Jam was moved until Earth Day 2008 as the September 2007 date may be competing with Live Earth. Other fund raising considerations include Whole Foods Market 5% Day, Meadows Foundation, Sue Pope Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Hinchcliff
Committee Secretary