



MINUTES

Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



April 4, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Dallas County Records Building
Innovation Training Room, 7th Floor
500 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75202

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Amy Martin, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rick Kopf, Andrew Albert Jones, Rinkesh Desai, Fred Washington

Members Absent: Javier Vilchis, Kiphani Allen, James Curl

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:10 am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

4. Review and Approval of the February 1, 2024, Minutes

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes and Mr. Desai seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Cypress Waters Trail

- A new interlocal agreement (ILA) will go to Dallas City Council in June and the Dallas County Commissioners Court by August. The Dallas County Civil District Attorney is reviewing easement documents and the Project Specific Agreement (PSA). 95% complete plans were re-submitted to TxDOT in March. The City of Dallas is taking the easement and an agreement with Oncor to the Park Board on May 16th.

Chalk Hill Trail

- This trail is in preliminary design. The Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT was partially executed through Commissioners Court in February. The consultant proposal is under review by the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

Heritage Trail

- City of Mesquite is holding a pre-construction meeting with the contractor on April 23rd.

Campion Trail

- The final plans and environmental assessment for Phase 2 are pending approval from the USACE. The design of the proposed bridge crossing at the Trinity River is being updated per Dallas County comments.

6. Status of County Preserves

Utility Easement Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek, and Paul S. Dryer preserves all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Past Events

The Old Growth Forest Network Community Forest Dedication Ceremony at Spring Creek Forest Preserve was held Saturday, February 24.

Upcoming Events

There are three of four public meetings for the Dallas County Open Space Plan remaining. All will be held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The focus of the meetings will be to solicit public feedback on the proposed preserve projects.

- Thursday, April 4, Coppell Senior and Community Center
- Tuesday, April 9, Dallas College Irving Center
- Wednesday, April 10, Audubon Recreation Center in Garland

The Dallas County Parks and Open Space Program is partnering with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Nature Trackers Program and Dallas ISD Environmental Education Center to hold a BioBlitz at Post Oak Preserve on Saturday, April 6 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

7. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

After reviewing the plan goals of Enhance, Connect, Protect, and Manage, Kendall Howard with Halff Associates asked the board members for their thoughts on the proposed systemwide recommendations. The members agreed that the recommendations should be more clearly organized and that they need to be discussed further at another meeting.

8. The Loop Dallas: Updates from Executive Director Philip Hiatt Haigh

The projected completion date for the entirety of The Loop is 2027.

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

Open Space Plan Systemwide Recommendations

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Regular Meeting: June 6, 2024

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.