



MINUTES
Dallas County
Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



December 2, 2021
9:00 a.m.

DeSoto Public Library
Multipurpose Room
211 E. Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, TX 75115

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Amy Martin, Javier Vilchis, Philip Haigh, William Freeman, Diane Baxter, Fred Washington

Members Absent: Jesse Tafalla Jr., Rick Perdue, Rick Kopf

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board Vice Chair Ed Koppman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Mr. Koppman introduced Amy Martin, a new TAPP Board member from District 1.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

Review and Approval of the August 5, 2021, Minutes

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Haigh seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

4. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Senior Transportation Planner with the Dallas County Public Works Department, provided the trails update. The Cedar Crest-Honey Springs Trail is complete and the ribbon cutting was held October 22nd. The Cypress Waters Trail design is on hold pending right-of-way/easement and maintenance agreements. The Chalk Hill Trail design is underway and the County is working with City of Dallas on the right-of-way for Phase 3 of the trail. Work on the Heritage Trail is pending negotiation of a new Interlocal agreement with the City of Mesquite.

5. Status of County Preserves

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator with the Dallas County Planning and Development (P&D) Department, provided the county preserves update.

- P&D has received utility easement requests for several preserves. The review of the sewer easement at Cottonwood Creek is almost complete and staff are working with the City of Wilmer on an agreement. The County could not grant a sewer and water easement to the City of Cedar Hill in Lester Lorch Preserve due to conditions in the original charitable agreement. Review of a sewer easement in Muddy Creek Preserve has not begun pending receipt of information.
- The repairs to the diversion wall at Grapevine Springs Preserve are complete.
- Ms. Brown created a list of needs in the County Preserves and review and comment from Board members is encouraged.
- P&D would like to update the Dallas County Open Space Plan, last published in 1991, in the coming year.
- P&D is currently working with DORBA to execute a new memorandum of agreement for trail construction and maintenance at Goat Island Preserve.
- The Civil Service Board approved a new position called Open Space Coordinator. This position, working under the guidance of the Open Space Administrator, will be responsible for creating and maintaining a volunteer program in the preserves.

6. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Freeman proposed an item to discuss expansion of the Kleberg Trail. Ms. Martin proposed an item to discuss how Texas Master Naturalists can assist the County in the creation and maintenance of soft surface trails in the preserves.

7. Action Item: Proposal to Rename Windmill Hill Preserve

Isom Cameron, Deputy City Manager for City of DeSoto, discussed the local effort to rename Windmill Hill Preserve to Paul Dryer Preserve. In July, the City Council passed a resolution requesting that the County change the preserve's name, including support letters detailing Mr. Dryer's extensive volunteer and advocacy efforts in the preserve. Mr. Haigh motioned to recommend to the Commissioners Court that the County rename Windmill Hill Preserve to the Paul Dryer Preserve. Mr. Freeman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. February 3 – TAPP Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is set for Thursday, February 3rd at 9:00 a. m.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Haigh made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.