



MINUTES
Dallas County
Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



February 17, 2022
9:00 a.m.

Dallas County Administration Building
3rd Floor Conference Room
411 Elm Street, Dallas, TX 75202

This Meeting Will Be Available Virtually on Microsoft Teams

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Or call in (audio only): (469) 208-1731, Conference ID: 689 813 183#

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Amy Martin, Philip Haigh, William Freeman, Diane Baxter, Fred Washington, Jesse Tafalla Jr., and Rick Kopf

Members Absent: Rick Perdue and Javier Vilchis

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board Chair Ed Koppman called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator, introduced Elizabeth Allen, Assistant Director of Planning & Development.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

Review and Approval of the December 2, 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 City of Dallas has confirmed funding

needed in order to execute right-of-way/easement documents for the Cypress Waters Trail and an interlocal agreement between the City and the County is under review. 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. A public meeting is anticipated in 2022. Design for Phase 1 of the Champion Trail Elm Fork Extension is 90% complete and the horizontal alignment for Phase 2 has been finalized. Work on the Heritage Trail is pending negotiation of a new Interlocal agreement with the City of Mesquite. Mr. Haigh requested an update on when funds for this project can be reallocated. Mr. Baker responded that there is still an opportunity to move forward with the City of Mesquite, but he will provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

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 is reviewing utility easement requests for Cottonwood Creek, Muddy Creek, Rowlett Creek, Goat Island, and Trinity River Mountain Creek preserves.
- Ms. Brown reviewed a list of ongoing projects in the preserves.
 - Cottonwood Creek Preserve:
 - Utility gate replacement at the northern boundary.
 - The City of Wilmer is revisiting a proposal to build a disc golf course.
 - Lester Lorch Park
 - County staff are working with the City of Cedar Hill to explore options for restroom facilities.
 - Paul S. Dryer Preserve at Windmill Hill
 - County staff are updating specifications for a new monument sign.
 - Goat Island Preserve
 - County staff are partnering with Road & Bridge District 3 for a plan to remove tires over the next year and install a trash can and dog waste station.
- P&D has submitted a draft Request for Proposals for an Open Space Plan to the Purchasing Department for review.
- P&D is currently working with DORBA to execute a new memorandum of agreement for trail construction and maintenance at Goat Island Preserve.
- Interviews were held February 14th and 15th for an Open Space Coordinator. A final selection was made, and staff hope to introduce them at the June meeting. 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. Kleburg Trail Expansion

Mr. Baker provided a Kleburg Trail fact sheet and trail corridor map. He explained that Dallas County District 1 has funding for what the City of Dallas submitted to the MCIP 7th Call for Projects and noted that the trail could be extended further south as future phases and funding are identified. Mr. Freeman asked if the City of Seagoville is participating in this project. Mr. Baker that while the City did not submit a funding request for the Kleburg Trail during the 7th Call for Projects, they could still be interested. Mr. Kopf asked about future trail connections and Mr. Haigh asked if the trail would be constructed in the DART corridor. Mr. Baker responded that there are other trails to the northwest that provide future connection opportunities but that there may not be room in the DART corridor for trail construction. He also mentioned that they are working on hiring a consultant to study the area for future bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Freeman requested that the consultant account for bicycle, pedestrian, and equestrian users in their analysis.

7. Soft Surface Trails in County Preserves

Ms. Martin discussed the need for additional miles of soft surface trails in the Park & Open Space Program, noting a high demand and that few preserves have more than two miles of this type of trail. She said that social trails have been made by preserve visitors due to lack of established trails, and that these lead to erosion and damage plant communities. She spoke of the many benefits of hiking on soft surface trails and that they can be designed for a multitude of user groups. Ms. Martin underscored the importance of proper design for these trails and suggested Groundwork Dallas and the North Texas Trail Runners for these services. She stated that soft surface trails could be a signature for the Park & Open Space Program and suggested several parks where trails could be built or expanded, such as Cottonwood Creek Preserve and Post Oak Preserve.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

Mr. Koppman stated that the discussion on creation and maintenance of soft surface trails in the preserves can be continued at the next meeting.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. April 7 – TAPP Board Meeting

The next Board meeting is set for Thursday, April 7th at 9:00 a. m.

10. Adjourn

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