



MINUTES
Dallas County
Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



April 7, 2022
9:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Amy Martin, William Freeman, Fred Washington, Jesse Tafalla Jr., Javier Vilchis, and Rick Kopf

Members Absent: Diane Baxter, Philip Haigh, and Rick Perdue

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board Chair Ed Koppman called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the February 17, 2021, Minutes

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

5. 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 city review. The project can go out for bid after the ILA is executed. 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

6. 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 has been replaced 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. The City is considering a solar powered composting restroom.
 - 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.
- P&D has submitted a draft Request for Proposals for an Open Space Plan to the Purchasing Department for review. It is anticipated to be release mid-May.
- The memorandum of agreement between Dallas County and DORBA for trail construction and maintenance at Goat Island Preserve was approved at the April 5th Commissioners Court.
- The Open Space Coordinator position reopened for applications. Interviews will be held in late April.

7. Soft Surface Trails in County Preserves

Ms. Martin continued the discussion from the February meeting about the need for and benefit of soft surface trails in Dallas County preserves. She described her experience leading a group of people on a forest bathing walk, an activity only possible on soft surface trails that can help build a connection to nature and a sense of place. Ms. Martin noted that Texas Parks & Wildlife Department studies showed the largest percentage of visitors came to state parks for hiking or walking and that Dallas County preserves could drive nature tourism and open economic opportunity, especially in the southern portion of the county, if there were more soft surface trails. She said that several southern Dallas County preserves have potential for more miles of trails, and their proximity to several large employers could provide a good source of corporate volunteers.

8. DMN Trails Editorial – Dallas’ Bike Momentum is Rolling

Mr. Koppman gave an overview of the March 26th editorial and noted that Mr. Haigh is quoted throughout. The members also discussed the April 5th letter to the editor submitted as a rebuttal, “Trails Alone Don’t Help Cyclists.”

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were proposed.

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. June 9 – TAPP Board Meeting

Ms. Brown made a correction that the next TAPP Board meeting is **June 2nd** at 9:00 a.m., not June 9th.

11. 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.