



MINUTES
Dallas County
Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



August 4, 2022
9:00 a.m.

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

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

Members Absent: Rick Perdue, Rick Kopf, and Javier Vilchis

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 April 7, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Koppman 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 executed an amendment to the interlocal agreement for the Cypress Waters Trail and the County will execute the same at Commissioners Court in August 2022. The trail design is 95% complete. An amendment to the work order for the consultant was approved by Commissioners Court. Public Works staff met with NCTCOG to explore grant funding opportunities for the Chalk Hill Trail. Project phasing and an amendment to the interlocal agreement are both under review. Design for Phase 1 of the Campion Trail Elm Fork Extension is 90% complete and the design for Phase 2 is 50% complete. Work on the Heritage Trail is

pending negotiation of a new Interlocal agreement with the City of Mesquite. Public Works staff will meet with the City on August 10. The City is coordinating with TxDOT on improvements within the state corridor prior to finalizing the design.

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.

- Ms. Brown welcomed Katie Christman, the new Open Space Coordinator, to the County. Ms. Christman was with the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center for eight years before joining the County. She will stand up a volunteer program for the Parks & Open Space Program.
- P&D is reviewing utility easement requests for Muddy Creek, Rowlett Creek, Goat Island, and Trinity River Mountain Creek preserves. The sanitary sewer easement agreement for Cottonwood Creek Preserve was approved by Commissioners Court in April.
- Ms. Brown reviewed a list of ongoing projects in the preserves.
 - Spring Creek Forest Preserve:
 - The County is planning to sell 0.678 acres of the preserve to the City of Garland for right of way for the Holford Road reconstruction project, a Major Capital Improvement Program project between Dallas County Public Works and the City. The project will elevate a bridge over Spring Creek, add a turning lane and entrance lighting for the preserve, and create a pedestrian connection between Spring Creek Forest Preserve and Spring Creek Park Preserve.
 - Cottonwood Creek Preserve:
 - The City of Wilmer is revisiting a proposal to build a disc golf course. County staff will meet with the City in August to discuss the proposal.
 - 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 have engaged a vendor to install a new monument sign. Installation is anticipated in late summer with a fall rededication.
 - Goat Island Preserve
 - County staff are partnering with the Fire Marshal and Road & Bridge District 3 for a plan to remove illegally dumped tires.
 - McCommas Bluff
 - County staff are working to engage a vendor to complete a boundary survey of the preserve, in part to resolve a boundary encroachment.

- A Request for Proposals for the next Dallas County Open Space Plan was released June 30. The deadline for proposals is 2:00 p.m. on August 25.

7. Soft Surface Trails in County Preserves

Ms. Martin gave the first part of a two-part presentation, following discussions at previous meetings about the need for and benefit of soft surface trails in Dallas County preserves. She emphasized that paved trails don't work for some because of medical or other reasons. Preserves in Dallas County with more than three miles of trails are overrun with users, especially on weekends. There is demand for soft surface trails from many different trail users, such as trail runners, fitness runners, hikers, bird watchers, forest bathers and others. Soft surface trails foster an attachment to nature and a heightened awareness which can create an appreciation for the land. Ms. Martin strongly recommended that investment in soft surface trails should focus on an extensive, professionally designed system. She also pointed out the economic and social benefits of this type of trail by using the example of the Sonian Forest in Brussels, Belgium. She concluded by saying that the second part of the presentation at the next meeting will focus on the practicalities of soft surface trails.

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

Mr. Haigh noted that the Circuit Trail Conservancy is working with the Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association (DORBA) to build the first soft surface trail in the City of Dallas in years, near the Trinity Spine Trail. The trail will have a professional designer.

9. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were proposed.

10. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. October 6 – TAPP Board Meeting

11. Adjourn

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