



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**February 23, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

George Allen, Sr. Courts Building
2nd Floor Training Room, Rm. 220 A-B
600 Commerce Street, Dallas, TX 75202

Members Present: Ed Koppman, Rinkesh Desai, William Freeman, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rick Kopf, Amy Martin

Members Absent: Fred Washington, Javier Vilchis, Kiphani Allen, Andrew Albert Jones

1. Call Meeting to Order

Board Chair Ed Koppman called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

2. Welcome/Introductions

New board member Rinkesh Desai was introduced to the board.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment given at the meeting.

4. Review and Approval of the December 1, 2022, Minutes

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the December 2022 board minutes as presented and Mr. Haigh, seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Senior Transportation Planner with the County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

- Cypress Waters Trail
 - Public Works is meeting on Feb 28th with the City of Dallas.
- Chalk Hill Trail
 - Public Works was awarded the TA Set-Aside funds from NCTCOG for \$3.4 million in construction funding. TxDOT needs to review plans, which will take about a year.
 - Also, they are requesting ARP funding to assist with Phase 2 of the trail.
 - The City of Dallas is submitting a TxDOT TA Set-Aside application for part of Phase 3.

- Heritage Trail
 - Public Works is coordinating with TxDOT on improvements and will hopefully move into construction this year (2023).
- Champion Trail
 - Phase 1 is being split into two stages due to right-of-way issues. The City of Dallas must work through easements before moving forward on this project. Some of the trail is in the floodplain, requiring coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

6. Status of County Preserves

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator, provided the county preserve update

- Utility Easement Requests
 - Trinity River – Mountain Creek, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek and North Mesquite Creek
 - Currently, Oncor and Brazos Electric are actively working on the Beltline Rd entrance at Goat Island Preserve.
- Road Projects
 - Spring Creek Forest
 - There are no updates currently.
- Cottonwood Creek Preserve
 - The City of Wilmer is in discussion with the County to add a disc golf course to the preserve.
 - The County is working with city staff to add preserve amenities and will have a site visit to discuss the possible addition of a prefabricated restroom at the preserve.
- Goat Island Preserve
 - The Parks & Open Space Program is partnering with the Dallas County Fire Marshal and other organizations for a plan to remove tires.
- McCommas Bluff Preserve
 - County staff are working with the Civil District Attorney's Office on a potential boundary encroachment. The boundary survey is underway.
- Grapevine Springs Preserve

- A professional arborist diagnosed the Sam Houston Treaty Oak with heart rot and will treat it with a fungicide. The City of Coppell is taking the lead on this project and the County is cost sharing.
- Open Space Plan Updates
 - The last Open Space plans have been in 1980 and 1991. The County is currently negotiating a contract with a consultant and anticipates the contract will go to Commissioners Court in March.
- Volunteer Program
 - We hosted a second clean-up with Texas Conservation Alliance in January 2023 at Post Oak Preserve. We are working on getting our tools, supplies and volunteer equipment to start advertising the volunteer program.

7. Presentation: Austin Chalk by Tom Dill, Dallas Paleontological Society

Mr. Dill described the geography of the Austin Chalk in Dallas County and gave an overview of the types of fossils that can be found within it.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

- Amy Martin invited the TAPP board to a free screening of the “Living with the Trinity” documentary, in honor of the Ned Fritz Legacy on April 6th from 5-8:30pm. If anyone is planning on going, they need to get tickets now.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

a. Next TAPP Board Meeting: April 6, 2023

10. Adjourn

Mr. Koppman adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.