



Minutes Dallas County Trail and Preserve Program Board Meeting



**December 7, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

**Dallas County Records Building
Innovation Training Room, 7th Floor
500 Elm St, Dallas TX 75202**

Members Present: Ed Koppman, William Freeman, Amy Martin, James Curl, Philip Hiatt Haigh, Rick Kopf, Fred Washington, Javier Vilchis, Rinkesh Desai

Members Absent: Kiphani Allen, Andrew Albert Jones

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Koppman at 9:06 am.

2. Welcome/Introductions

3. Public Comment

Julia Fineman and Ebony Brock each gave public comment on the mission of Constellation of Living Memorials.

4. Review and Approval of the October 5, 2023, Minutes –

Mr. Freeman made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes and Mr. Haigh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Status of Trails

Micah Baker, Mobility Planning Manager with the Dallas County Public Works Department, provided the trails update.

- The Cotton Belt Trail and the Five Mile Creek Trail from Westmoreland Road to S. Hampton Road were both selected for funding through the TxDOT Transportation Alternatives Program.
- Cypress Waters Trail
 - Right-of-way (ROW) negotiation follow up meeting occurred on October 30th with all stakeholders and another one is scheduled for December 15th. A ROW easement exhibit has been created by a County consultant for City review.
 - Chalk Hill Trail

- This trail is in preliminary design and received the draft Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) from TxDOT, which is currently under review by the County Civil District Attorney.
- Heritage Trail
 - The project specific agreement (PSA) with the City of Mesquite was fully executed on October 17th.
 - The project is being advertised for bid on December 7th and the bids will be opening on January 9th.
- Campion Trail
 - Phase 1 is nearly complete, and the City of Irving is close to holding a ribbon cutting.
 - The final plans and environmental assessment are pending approval from the USACE.
- In reference to a November 12th Dallas Morning News editorial about bike lanes, Mr. Koppman asked Mr. Baker about how Dallas County coordinates with the cities on new trails. Mr. Baker said that the County is typically involved in funding meetings and is involved in the implementation of the project. The cities typically include projects in their bond programs and then submit those projects that are appropriate for the Dallas County MCIP Call for Projects timeline.

6. Status of County Preserves

Mia Brown, Open Space Administrator with the Department of Planning & Development, provided the County preserve update.

Utility Easement Requests

Trinity River Mountain Creek, Goat Island, Rowlett Creek, North Mesquite Creek, and Paul S. Dryer preserves all currently have ongoing utility easement requests.

Road Projects

- Spring Creek Forest – Holford road will be elevated over Spring Creek, while adding a turning lane and entrance lighting, and creating a pedestrian connection between Spring Creek Park and Spring Creek Forest Preserves.

Preserve Project Updates

- Cottonwood Creek Preserve – The City of Wilmer is moving forward with a plan for a disc golf course. The City is working on a plan for parking, bathroom facilities and the course layout.
- Goat Island Preserve – Dallas County is currently in the closing process for 60 acres at 3200 Post Oak Road and 4403 S. Beltline Road.

- The Open Space Coordinator position is currently vacant and staff are working to hire a new person, who they hope to introduce at the February TAPP Board meeting.
- Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff participated in the District 1 Lunch and Learn on November 8th with Commissioner Theresa Daniel and Wild DFW author Amy Martin.
- Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff participated in Dallas Audubon's Native Prairie Planting Event at Cedar Ridge Preserve on November 18th.
- Dallas County Parks and Open Space staff will be at these upcoming events:
 - Post Oak Preserve Clean-up on December 9th

7. Dallas County Open Space Plan Update

Staff from Halff Associates were not available to give the update.

8. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

Philip Haigh proposed an item to discuss updating Dallas County MCIP project criteria to incentivize projects with less impermeable surfaces. Amy Martin proposed an item to discuss the Old Growth Forest Network.

9. Upcoming Events/Board Meetings

Next TAPP Board Meeting: February 1, 2024.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.